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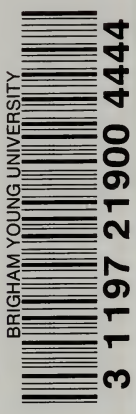

THE

CHANNEL ISLANDS:

JERSEY, GUERNSEY, ALDERNEY,

ETC.

[THE RESULT OF A TWO YEARS' RESIDENCE.]

BY

HENRY D. INGLIS,

AUTHOR OF "SPAIN IN 1830," "THE TYROL," &c.

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UPB

TO

COLONEL LE COUTEUR,

JERSEY,

AND

SAMUEL ELLIOT HOSKINS, M. D.

GUERNSEY,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR,

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OF THE

VALUABLE ASSISTANCE,

AND

FRIENDLY AIDS,

FOR WHICH HE IS SO LARGELY THEIR DEBTOR.

PREFACE

TO

THE SECOND EDITION.

Gratified by the very favourable reception of the first edition of this work, which has been some time entirely exhausted, the Author endeavours to repay his obligation to the Public, by presenting to it, the present edition, in an improved form, carefully revised, embellished by Pictorial Illustrations, and at little more than one half the cost of the former edition.

London, March 4th, 1835.

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

JERSEY.

CHAPTER I.

The Channel Islands little known in England, and their claims to be known — Approach to Jersey — Coast Scenery — First Impressions—St. Helier and its Environs—Causes of Prosperity —The Market Place and its Attractions—The Square, and its Coteries and Loungers — Streets and Shops—Churches— Fort Regent—Charming Views.

It cannot, I think, be doubted, that less is known in England, of the Channel Islands, than of any other colony or dependency of the British crown, of equal size and importance. The Channel Islands have a population exceeding sixty-five thousand, and Jersey

alone has a shipping, reaching twenty-one thousand tons. And yet, I will venture to assert, that more is actually known, and more accurate information is to be gathered from authentic sources, respecting the smallest of the colonies that lie in the Atlantic or Indian oceans, than respecting Jersey or Guernsey.

And this is the more extraordinary, when we consider, that there are certain points of interest attached to the Channel Islands, peculiarly their own; and which essentially distinguish them from the other colonies and dependencies of Great Britain. Among these may be enumerated, their connexion with the Norman Conquest and long dependence upon the British crown; their separate and independent constitution,—and the peculiar laws by which they are governed; their singular privileges; their native civilized inhabitants; their vicinity to the coast of France, and the general use of the French language.

Let me not be supposed to speak disparagingly, of the works which have already been written, respecting these Islands. In these works, the history and political constitution of Jersey and Guernsey have been well elucidated: but we cannot refer to their pages, for information respecting their present condition,—as little, for those sketches of their moral and natural aspect, which in these days, usually result from the observations of an intelligent traveller. Something therefore seemed to be wanting: and with the view (among others) of attempting to supply the deficiency I left England in the end of April 183—, with the intention of residing a year or two in the Channel Islands.

The features of the scene, as the traveller approaches Jersey, vary with the state of the tide. Enormous ridges, and extensive beds of rock, lie along the whole of the southern coast of the island; and the rise of the tide being no less than forty-five feet, the shore at low water, to one approaching it from England, presents a most rugged and uninviting aspect. It was my good fortune, however, to arrive at high water; and I believe no one so favoured, can sail round Noirmont-point, and stretch across the mouth of St. Aubin's bay towards the harbour of St. Helier, without the most lively admiration of the scene. There is, indeed, all that constitutes the beautiful and the picturesque: there is the noble brim-full bay, stretching in a fine curve of many miles,—its sloping shores charmingly diversified with wood and cultivated fields, and thickly dotted with villas and cottages: there is, on the left, close to the vessel as she sails by, the grey, and imposing fortress, called Elizabeth Castle, built on a huge sea-girt rock; while in front, is seen the town, commanded by its lofty stronghold,—and backed by a fine range of wooded and cultivated heights.

Little is seen of the town, in entering the harbour, or in making one's way to any of the hotels; and that little is the worst part of it. At Jersey, as at other ports, whether of England or of foreign countries, the traveller is annoyed by the importunities of porters; but there is one annoyance from which he is happily free,—he may take his carpet bag in his hand if he please, without asking leave of a custom-house officer; and he may have the satisfaction of seeing his trunks

carried before him to the hotel, without the tedious delays incident to revenue regulations. This puts one in too good a humour to find fault with porters.

Of the town of St. Helier and its neighbourhood, I should say, that first impressions are favourable. These do not arise from the excellence of streets; the beauty of public edifices; or the splendour of private houses: they have a higher source,—and arise from those indications of general prosperity, which are everywhere visible. Everywhere the stranger will perceive the hand of improvement: he will see public works in progress; he will see shops and houses tenanted; he will see neither beggars nor rags; and will recognize in the general aspect of the population, that look of independence and *aisance*, which can exist only in those favoured spots which pauperism has not reached.

Nor are these favourable impressions to be gathered only in the town of St. Helier. They will be strengthened tenfold, by a walk in the environs. The town, I have said, lies fronting the sea, and is backed by a range of heights: but betwixt these heights and the town, there is a level, varying from a quarter of a mile, to a mile and a half in breadth. This level forms a semicircular suburb, the arch of which is not less than three miles; and the whole of this space is occupied by villas and cottage residences, with their gardens and orchards,—the property chiefly of the native inhabitants of Jersey; and occupied, either by themselves, or by the English residents to whom they are let. These residences are not confined to the level ground: they encroach upon the heights also,—

adorning the slopes, and crowning the eminences; and the general neatness of the exterior of these villas, with the substantial garden walls, the luxuriant foliage, and frequent vineries, strongly confirm the impressions which have been awakened in walking through the town.

Let it be recollected too, that some chief causes of the prosperity of this island, are independent of the dicta of fashion. The caprice of a monarch may elevate or depress Brighton, according as the whim of a season carries him there, or keeps him away; and the prosperity of a Cheltenham or a Bath, is at all times subject to fashion, the laws of which, are so capricious as to be inscrutable. But Jersey possesses those solid advantages, both to its native inhabitants and to residents, which prove an overmatch for the caprices of fashion. These advantages will be enumerated by and by.

The general aspect of St. Helier and its environs, is altogether un-English. A regular and extensive fortress overlooking an English town, is nowhere to be seen; and to any one who has travelled in Switzerland, and who walks in the environs of St. Helier, recollections of Swiss towns cannot fail to be awakened. Baden, Basle, Berne, Zurich,—around which, houses, gardens, parterres, orchards, meadows, groves, and rocks are so charmingly intermingled, are instantly recalled; and in the glimpses which are occasionally caught of the bay, the resemblance is heightened by the alchemy of imagination, which easily pictures the lakes of Geneva, Zurich, or Lucern.

Of the town itself, I should say, that in point of

externals, it is much upon a level with English country towns of the same size: the streets are perhaps upon the whole somewhat narrower; and there is a greater paucity of public edifices: but like them, it has its better and its worse quarters; its rows of modern houses, and its old filthy alleys; its churches and its chapels; its square, and its market place. But the two latter deserve more particular mention.

Let every one who visits St. Helier, hie him to the market place on a Saturday morning. There, one may judge not only of the produce of the island, but of its population. I have seldom seen in any market—save and except Thoulouse, which I look upon as the *ne plus ultra* for garden produce—a finer display of vegetables, fruits, and flowers, than in the market of St. Helier. It is a very general custom for the heads of families to make their own markets; and therefore a pretty fair sample of the resident population may be always seen there in fine weather. Nor is market-going in St. Helier altogether a matter of business: it is true that at the earlier hours, both ladies and gentlemen may be seen intent on supplying the larder; and it startles one at first, to see gentlemen walking about with an armful of cauliflowers or artichokes,—or with a couple of mullet or mackerel, dangling from a string passed through the gills: but somewhat later in the day, the market changes its character, and becomes a promenade; abundance of nodding feathers and smart ribbons are to be seen; and talk and gossip, succeed to inquiry and cheapening. I shall speak afterwards, of the quality and prices of provisions; at present, I shall

merely say, that to a stranger, the display of edibles is very satisfactory. It must be admitted however, that the market place is not sufficiently roomy; and that in order to gratify oneself with the display of country produce, and of the faces of the country girls who bring their butter and eggs to market, one must submit to be elbowed and jostled more than is altogether agreeable. By and by I shall speak more in detail, of the market place and its contents.

The Square, or Royal Square, as it is called, deserves a page to itself. In Spain, the square would be an Alameda; but in Jersey, it is the resort only of the male lounger. Here, at most hours of the day, may be seen, groups of threes and fours, posted here and there, discussing Island politics: others, single, or in pairs, are seen strolling leisurely to and fro, perfect examples of the "far'niente:" others again, in twos and threes, more intent on health and exercise than conversation, may be observed for hours together, walking from end to end, at the top of their walking speed; while a few gossips are seen seated on benches at the door of an eminent pastry-cook's shop, whiling away the too tedious hours. But this is not all. The Court House is in this square; and before and after its sittings, a promiscuous crowd, composed of clients, lawyers, judges, and lookers-on, is congregated about the door, intent upon what is about to be,—or busily occupied with that which has been; for I have nowhere so much as in Jersey, seen individual causes, and private disputes, occupy public attention. In this same square too, are all the booksellers' shops, and the reading rooms, and newspaper offices: the town church

too, stands close by: it boasts also, one of the principal hotels; and as all the chief thoroughfares of the town communicate with it, the reader may easily guess what sort of a place is the Royal Square of Jersey. I ought to mention, that this square is not what in England is understood by a square: it is an open space flagged with smooth stones, and resembles rather a French *place*, or a Spanish *paseo*, than an English square.

In walking through the streets of St. Helier one is not struck either by the meanness or the magnificence of shops, or of houses. The former are in general greatly superior to those which are seen in a small continental town,—but much upon a par with those we find in a flourishing English country town. There is perhaps less window display,—which is often the symbol of poverty within; but many of the shops in Jersey are extensive establishments, and contain large and varied stocks of the goods in which they deal. As for the houses in the older and central parts of the town, they are chiefly the residences of the shopkeepers. The houses of those who are unconnected with trade, and of many of the most opulent merchants also, are to be found in the outskirts, and in those newer streets which form the outlets,—where also, the English residents principally reside. Some of these streets are pretty, regular, and well built, and have open space, and ornamented garden ground in front of them. Two of these streets, the Terrace, and the Crescent, are inhabited chiefly by the English; and the latter of these, is considerably improved in its appearance by the theatre, which forms the centre

of the arch, and whose pretty Greek portico is an agreeable relief to the plainness of the buildings that flank it.

It is fortunate for the traveller, that Jersey possesses other attractions than those offered by its public buildings; for these are devoid of either beauty or interest: indeed, with the exception of the old church, two of the chapels, the theatre and the gaol, there are none deserving the name: and of these, one of the chapels, and the portico of the theatre, have alone any claim to architectural design. For my own part, I am no admirer of little white gothic churches set down in the outskirts of towns. This has been long a prevailing fashion in England; but it seems to me, that the gothic style needs something more than pointed arches, and a pinnacled tower, to make it acceptable. Our first knowledge of these relics of other days, was obtained either from those fabrics which addressed themselves to the imagination by their gigantic proportions, and which excited wonder by the perfection of their workmanship,—or from those smaller remains, which, with equal perfection of workmanship, shewed us how much the interest of a building is enhanced by beauty of situation. But the modern gothic churches have none of those attributes which are naturally associated in our minds with gothic architecture,—neither size, nor elaborate sculpture, nor situation.

As for the parish church of St. Helier, it is old and grey, and venerable enough,—built, so far back, they say, as 1341: and will attract little beyond a passing glance from the traveller. Inside however,

there is a monument connected with Jersey history,—a tablet to the memory of Major Pierson, who was killed in action when the French attacked the island in 1781. All the other chapels are plain barn-like edifices, no way ornamental to the town; and by the by, it is certainly to be lamented that, since the expense of erecting a building upon a correct architectural design is not necessarily greater than that of raising a shapeless pile, and since the word of God is not less efficacious preached in a Greek temple than in a barn, absurd puritanism should have covered England and her colonies with deformity.

One of the objects that chiefly attracts the notice of a traveller, is the extensive fortification,—Fort Regent,—which, from almost every part of the town and its neighbourhood, is seen overtopping the buildings. I was extremely pleased by my first walk to Fort Regent; for the view from the road, as it ascends the hill, lays open one of the most striking prospects which it has been my good fortune to see. The magnificent bay of St. Aubin, about four miles across its mouth, and at least two in depth, is seen stretching in a fine curve, to the opposite village which gives to it its name, and which is seen half hid among the wooded heights among which it lies. It was a calm and beautiful May day; the sea all the way across the bay, had scarcely a ripple on it; it was high tide too; and several small vessels were trying ineffectually, to catch air enough to waft them in and out of the harbour. I was strikingly reminded of the view from Gibraltar, looking across the bay towards the little town of Algesiras; only I missed the perfume of

the geranium and the acacia, and the jabbering of the monkeys among the rocks.

But Fort Regent, in which one sees nearly a million of the national debt, deserves a more particular notice. The foundation of this fortress was laid in 1806; and although I have not been able to obtain access to the documents setting forth the precise expenditure, I have reason to know, that from first to last, it has cost the British nation not less than 800,000*l.* sterling.

I have no intention of describing the fortress. Although the form of the rock upon which it is constructed, has necessarily made it an irregular fortress, it is nevertheless constructed on the best principles. It possesses all the usual defences. It has its bastions, and half bastions, and outworks, and glacis,—and, excepting on the side which faces the sea, a ditch, with a counterscarp and covertway, is carried all round. The whole of the magazines and barracks are in the bastions, and under the ramparts, and are bomb proof. The powder magazines are capable of containing five thousand barrels.

This extensive, and expensive fortress (the utility of which is altogether questionable) affords accommodation for only thirty-one officers, and four hundred and forty-eight non-commissioned officers and privates; a number, utterly inadequate to its defence against a regular siege. There is no doubt, that in such an event, the fortress would be made to contain a greater number than there is accommodation for; but crowding men in the bomb proofs, would engender disease; part of the barracks would be necessary

for the purposes of an hospital; room would also be required for the spare *materiel* of a siege; work-shops for artificers; store-rooms for provisions, &c.; and besides, the casemates under the bastions, which could alone be converted to these purposes, would require to be kept clear of all that might impede the working of the guns which enfilade the bottom of the ditches.

Fort Regent is commanded by two eminences, which, although at least a thousand yards distant, are sufficiently near to have been considered dangerous by the engineer; for traverses have been raised on the bastions, and across the curtains, with the view apparently, of counteracting the effects of an enemy's fire. The fortress is abundantly supplied with excellent water, from a well, two hundred and thirty-four feet deep, and ten feet in diameter, bored through the solid rock.

It is doubtful, whether all this labour, and money, has not been after all, injudiciously expended; and whether Fort Regent be in reality, any compensation to England, for the 30, or 40,000*l.* per annum with which it has saddled her: and it is also the opinion of many, that if a fortress of this nature were to have been erected, it would have been placed more advantageously at Noirmont-point, on the opposite side of the bay. It is evident, that in case of a descent upon Jersey by a force superior to any that could be opposed to it, the only use of a stronghold is, to afford the means of succour from England. This is no better secured by erecting the citadel close to the town, than if it had been raised on the other side of the bay,—and in case of a siege, the former involves

the destruction of the town, not only by an enemy, but by its defenders also; since in such an event, it would be necessary to clear away all that part of the town which lies under the fort, as opportunities would otherwise be afforded for making lodgments, and for undermining.

This new and expensive defence of the island of Jersey, reduces to insignificance, the ancient, and more picturesque fortress called Elizabeth Castle, which I have already mentioned as so striking an object in approaching the island. Striking, however, as this castle is, whether seen from sea, or from shore, and interesting as it is, from some historical details connected with it, I was some time in Jersey before I visited it, the access to it being by no means inviting. It is not more than three quarters of a mile, from the pier of St. Helier, to Elizabeth Castle; but in order to reach it on foot, or on horseback, at low water, one must make a long circuit, and traverse a natural causeway little less than a mile long, which the confluence of the tides has formed between the castle and the shore. The whole of the sands indeed, on each side of the causeway, are left by the ebbing tide; but being too wet and soft to be passable, one is obliged to keep on the rough narrow elevation. The situation of Elizabeth Castle will be tolerably well seen and understood from the map.

Before visiting Elizabeth Castle, one has no idea of its extent. The rock, however, on which it stands, is not less than a mile in circumference, and I was surprised on passing through the gateway, to find a wide grassy level, terminated by extensive barracks and

their appurtenances. As may easily be believed, the views from the higher parts of the castle over the bay, and embracing the town, and Fort Regent, are equally striking and beautiful.

In war time, this fortress was an important place, and no doubt presented to the eyes and the ears of the visitors, a very different aspect from that which it now presents. Decay appears now to be creeping over it: and although a solitary sentinel is still to be seen, pacing to and fro; and although pyramids of shot, still occupy their accustomed places, grass and weeds have forced their way through the interstices; and the rows of dismounted cannon shew that the stirring days of war are gone by. May the weeds long grow, and the rust continue to creep over the engines of death!

But Elizabeth Castle has its story, which I must not altogether pass over. It was in the year 1551, that it was first contemplated to raise a fortress on this rock; and a few years afterwards (so the legend tells) the bells of the churches and other sacred things, were taken, to be converted into funds; and being sent for sale to St. Malo, the ship was of course lost, as a judgment upon this sacrilegious act. This delayed the erection of the fortress, which however was begun during the reign of Elizabeth, and was honoured by her name. Many additions were made to this fortress in the reign of Charles the First; and it was not till the year 1665, that the fortifications were completed. I am not good at describing fortifications, and shall therefore not attempt any description of this. I will merely add, that it is an irregular fortification, and

has shewn itself capable of making a vigorous defence, as was proved in the year 1651, when it was besieged by the parliamentary forces; and it is said to have been the last of the king's fortresses which owned his authority. When, in Charles's reign, the young prince took refuge in Jersey, he was accompanied by Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards the great Lord Clarendon, who, it is certain, resided for two years in Elizabeth Castle, and there wrote a part of his celebrated history.

I must not omit to mention, that on the summit of a rock situated a little to the south of Elizabeth Castle, and like it, accessible at low water, may still be seen the rude remains of a hermitage, which was once the retreat of a holy man, from whose canonized name, the town of St. Helier is said to have derived its own. Elizabeth Castle is not usually visited by the stranger. It is not included in any of the "tours of the island," which the guide books recommend him to take; but both for its own sake, and for the sake of the views to be enjoyed from it, a visit certainly repays him for his trouble.

Strangers arriving in Jersey, and anxious to see what sort of people they have come among, generally inquire, where the inhabitants walk? where is the promenade? But in truth, the inhabitants scarcely do walk; and there is no promenade: and unless it be at church, I really do not know where the inhabitants of Jersey are to be seen. They talk of constructing a promenade; but I do not think the inhabitants deserve it. Both to the west and to the east of the town, there is a long stretch of find hard sand, at all times fit for a promenade, unless at full spring tides;

and yet, one may go there at any hour of the day, without seeing a single individual profiting by the advantages offered by nature. Why then put art in requisition, to create a luxury which will certainly be unappreciated by the inhabitants? Jersey is not sufficiently continental in its tastes, to relish a public promenade; and yet one would think, this is a taste which it would not be difficult to acquire; for it includes in it, the desire of seeing, and of being seen: and certainly it is felt to be a great convenience to the traveller, on almost every part of the continent, who desires to learn something of the general aspect of the population of a town, to have only to ask the road to the public walk,—be it, boulevard, prater, or prado.

I should say of the street population of St. Helier generally, that it differs little from that of any English town—especially a sea port. There is certainly no difference in the dress and appearance of the upper classes; unless it be, that among gentlemen, jackets are as much in use as long tailed coats—a taste which is observable in the English sea ports,—and that but moderate attention is bestowed upon the neatness of apparel. Among the lower orders, the enormous flap-eared pyramidal cap, worn by the Norman women, is frequently seen; and there is indeed a French air, and an admixture of French dress, among the women of the inferior ranks. The trade between Jersey, and the nearest villages of the French coast being constant, especially during the fruit and game season, rows of Norman peasant women may then be seen seated outside of the market place, with their capons, partridges, hares, woodcocks, &c.

There is one thing however, very striking, in the aspect of the street population of Jersey,—the extraordinary contrast exhibited between business and idleness. The English residents form a large proportion of the inhabitants; and the English residents have nothing to do. There is therefore, the constant contrast between that portion of the population whose object, and I may even say, whose difficulty is, to get quit of time,—and that other portion, the native inhabitants namely, whose object is, to make the most of it. The former, is certainly the more difficult, and the more fatiguing task.

CHAPTER II.

General aspect of Jersey—Valleys, and Streams—Ivy—View over the Island—Character of the Valleys—Dells, Orchards, Cattle—The New Roads, and the Old Lanes—Military Objections to the New Roads.

The general aspect of Jersey, is wooded fertility; and the general character of its scenery, is beauty. The scenery, even upon the coast, nowhere rises into the sublime; and although some of the valleys and coves, exhibit glimpses of the picturesque, beauty and softness are the prevailing features. One would scarcely expect to find, in an island hardly forty miles in circumference, any great diversity of scenery, or variety of surface,—upon which indeed, the former is

dependent: but Jersey is everywhere undulating; broken into hollows and acclivities; and intersected by numerous valleys, generally running north and south,—most of them watered by a rivulet; and as rife in beauty, as wood, pasturage, orchard, a tinkling stream, and glimpses of the sea can make them. There is one picturesque feature, which enters into every view in Jersey: the trunks of the trees, are, I may say without exception, entirely covered with ivy; which not only adds to the beauty of the scenery when the trees are in leaf; but greatly softens the sterility of a winter prospect, and gives a greenness to the landscape throughout the year. Nor is the luxuriant growth of the ivy in Jersey confined to the trees; it covers the banks by the way side; creeps over the walls; and even climbs upon the rocks by the sea shore. About two miles to the east of St. Helier, there are several elevated rocks, the bases of which, are washed at high water, and which, higher up, are entirely overgrown with ivy; and from the natural outline of these rocks, and their green covering, they have all the appearance of ruins.

I have said, that the valleys generally contain a stream; and these, although insignificant in comparison with the rivers to which we are accustomed in England, are yet, more considerable than one might expect to find in so small an island. Mr. Falle in his valuable History of Jersey, assigns, and I think correctly, as a reason for this, the peculiar shape of the island, which, although greatly diversified in its surface, is, as a whole, an inclined plane, sloping from south to north: the consequence of which is, that the streams have a

longer course than if the island were most elevated in the centre,—and are more likely to unite their waters, than if they flowed to the sea in different directions; and indeed, so considerable are these streams, that nearly forty mills are turned by them. None of the Jersey rivulets however, afford sport to the angler. This may no doubt be partly owing to their scantiness; but not altogether so: for both in Scotland, and on the continent, particularly in Bavaria, I have allured trout from moorland or mountain rills, quite as insignificant as the streams of Jersey.

Although in walking, or riding up some of the Jersey valleys, the scenery of these individual valleys is laid open, it is difficult by walking or driving across the island, to obtain any view over it. The roads are in many places, over-arched with trees; and even if they were not, as they invariably are, skirted with trees,—the high banks, covered with underwood and ivy, generally shut out the prospect. Stand up in your vehicle, or on your stirrups, or climb up one of the banks, and the matter is not much mended: a thick orchard is sure to be on the other side; and though an open grass field, or a corn field, occasionally seems to hold out expectations of a more open prospect, these are probably bounded on the other side by orchards, so that the view is still circumscribed.

It is fortunate however, since nature has refused the means of obtaining a view over the island, that art has supplied the defect: and indeed, I do not know any district, in any country, where the stranger can post himself more advantageously, for obtaining a correct idea of the general aspect of its surface. The chief

elevation of this kind, is called La Hougue Bie, but more generally known by the name of Prince's Tower; from the summit of which, the eye embraces almost the whole island. I have never failed to be delighted with the view from this spot, which is not only interesting, as at once laying open the whole character and extent of the island, but as being in itself, inexpressibly beautiful. Jersey appears like an extensive pleasure ground,—one immense park, thickly studded with trees; beautifully undulating, and dotted with cottages. Fertility is on every side seen meeting the sea: the fine curves of several of the bays may be distinctly traced, with their martello towers, and other more imposing defences: several of the larger valleys may be distinguished by the shadow which is thrown upon one side: while all around, the horizon is bounded by the blue sea, excepting towards the east, where the French coast is seen stretching in a wide curve towards the south and north; and which, in one direction, approaches so near to Jersey, that the white sea beach is distinctly seen; and in clear weather, even the towns that lie near to the coast may be discerned. The prospect is altogether most charming; and among the many I have seen in my day, I know few that please me more.

The walk to this spot too, is a beautiful one; it is not above three miles from the town; and in this distance, a tolerably correct idea may be formed of the environs of St. Helier. The first part of the road which leads thither, is skirted by villas and cottage residences, and by the fine wooded slopes upon which they are built; and passes one of the most interesting

of the island churches,—St. Saviour's,—in the church yard of which, one may very well linger a while in the shade of its trees, or looking down from it, upon the town, and the bay of St. Aubin. Government-house, too, lies on the same road. It is scarcely seen from the road; and the view of it would not reward a walk up the avenue, which however, is easily distinguished by the absurd parade of a sentinel pacing to and fro, and a corporal's guard yawning in the lodge.

The tower of La Hougue Bie, stands upon an artificial mound of some height, thickly planted with trees, and evergreen shrubs; and in the months of August and September, when the hydrangeas are in blossom, the attractions of the spot are greatly increased; for these beautiful shrubs, here almost as large as trees, form the avenues in the neighbourhood; and at that season, covered with their large blue flowers, the effect is indeed most captivating. I have nowhere seen the hydrangea so luxuriant in its growth as in the Channel Islands; and the flowers are most commonly blue, not pink, as we are more accustomed to see them in England.

But I must not dismiss the tower of La Hougue Bie, without briefly noticing the legend with which it is connected.

It is said in the "Livre noir de Coutances," that this part of Jersey was infested by a monstrous serpent, or dragon, which devoured all within its range, and threatened in the end, to depopulate the island. Now it so happened, that there chanced to be living somewhere on the opposite coast of France, a certain Norman noble called De Hambie, a Hercules in

strength, and a lion in courage; and, he having heard of the terror spread by this monster, resolved to encounter and slay it, or perish in the attempt. In this expedition, De Hambie was attended by his hitherto trusty domestic; and the heroic Norman having found the dragon, encountered and slew it. Some say, he was suffocated by the pestilential breath of the monster; others have it, that while he slept, exhausted with the fight, his servant murdered him. Be that as it may, De Hambie was no more,—and the servant returned to Normandy, relating to the bereaved wife of his master, the fate of her husband, and with many solemn asseverations, communicating the wish of his dying lord, that she should bestow her hand upon his trusty servant. To this she consented; but conscience slumbers not, nor sleeps; and the murderer, whether in sleep, or in a fit of delirium, confessed his crime; and the whole truth being drawn from him, he suffered the punishment due to its enormity. The widow, as a proof of conjugal affection, caused a mound of earth to be raised on the spot where her lord was murdered; and on the summit of it, a tower, and chapel, of so great a height, that she might be enabled to see it from her own castle at Coutances. There are other versions of the legend, but this is perhaps as good as any of them,—and quite as authentic.

The tower, although certainly the most advantageous spot for commanding a view of the island, is not the only one from which a view may be obtained; Fort Regent; Mount Orgueil,—of which I shall afterwards speak; the heights above St. Aubin; and a tower on the south-east extremity of the island, on

the manor of Saumarez, all command extensive prospects; though from none of them, as from Prince's tower, is the whole island seen spread out like a map at your feet.

The view from Prince's tower, immediately begets a desire to range over the island; to penetrate into the valleys and ravines; to wander through the fields, pastures, orchards and gardens; and to descend to the bays and creeks, which one pictures full of quiet and beauty: and for my own part, I was not long in yielding to this desire.

Every place has its lions; every district in every travelled country under the sun, has its accustomed drives; and the traveller who visits Jersey for a few days, for the purpose of seeing the island, will be placed in a jaunting car, and carried across the island,—or taken the great round, and little round,—and be told he has seen Jersey. But there are many valleys up which the jaunting car never travels,—many deep dells, where there are no roads for cars,—many a tiny rivulet that waters into fertility, green meadows dotted with cattle that seldom raise their heads to look on the stranger,—many little coves, inlets and creeks, to which there is no trodden path; and therefore the traveller who seats himself in his vehicle, gains but a very imperfect knowledge of the outward aspect, and natural beauties of Jersey.

It is impossible in fact to gain any accurate notion of the interior of Jersey, by following the great roads only. In this island, there are two descriptions of roads,—the ancient, and the new: the latter are numerous, wide, and well constructed,—intersecting the island

in many directions; and tending, more perhaps than any other alteration to which Jersey has been subjected, to improve the land,—and necessarily, the condition of the people. It is to the public spiritedness of Sir George Don, one of the late governors of Jersey, that the inhabitants owe the advantage of which I am speaking: and it will scarcely be credited, that the greatest possible opposition was offered, to the construction of roads. This opposition was of course fruitless; and Jersey can now boast of facilities for intercourse, and for the conveyance of produce, quite equal to those that are enjoyed in the most civilized parts of Europe.

But having passed this exordium upon the new roads, let me recur to the old ones, with which, at present, I have more to do, as I am occupied in this chapter, not with the facilities offered for trade, but with the facilities offered to those who desire to obtain a perfect acquaintance with the interior of the island. These old island roads, are extremely narrow; wide enough for only one country cart; extremely winding; and yet utterly regardless of maintaining a level,—descending into deep dells,—or climbing the heights, with a view only to the termination. They have generally a very narrow paved footway, on one side,—now however, greatly worn,—and everywhere out of repair; and these roads, are almost without exception overarched by trees. Once plunge into these bye-ways, and you cannot tell when you may emerge from them. Their number is almost uncountable; they branch off at all angles; and it sometimes happens, that the shade is so deep, and the banks so high,—to

say nothing of the windings,—that one may walk for miles without having any opportunity of judging where one is, or in what direction one has been moving.

But during a day's ramble through these roads, much is seen of Jersey: it is true indeed, as I have already said, that one may walk a long way without catching a glimpse beyond the trees and the banks; but it is not universally so: beautiful vistas are occasionally laid open; quiet sequestered dells crossed, where one may linger long with nature; and, as these roads were originally constructed from the churches to the sea, embracing in their turnings, the farm houses, and other habitations, you are not only led by them to the old Jersey houses, but also among the orchards and pastures, whence the people have derived their independence. It is in such walks, that you will see the cows, celebrated over all the world, breeding for export; and the loaded trees, blooming with the blossom, or bent with the fruit, to be afterwards converted into the great export of the island. I should like much to know, how many miles of these old roads Jersey contains. Considering their numerous branches and sinuosities, and the diameter of the island which they intersect, I should guess their whole extent to be not less than from three to four hundred miles; and several persons with whom I have spoken, and who are well acquainted with the island, consider this to be greatly below the truth.

But, by the stranger who visits Jersey, these roads are altogether untravelled; and even in the little guide books which from time to time have been

written—very nice little books in many respects—there is no counsel given, to follow these roads; nor any mention made of them, excepting as roads which have been entirely superseded by the better and more modern communications. It is said, that of old, some of these were privileged paths; and were intended as a safe communication with the sea, for those who had taken sanctuary in the churches, and who had been sentenced to exile. These privileged paths, or rather, the privilege of these paths, terminated of course at the reformation. Notwithstanding the formation of the new roads, the country people still make great use of the old. It is almost always possible to journey between one point and another by the old as well as by the new roads,—only somewhat more circuitously; and during the summer heats, it is no small convenience to be able to reach the neighbourhood of the town, with heavy market baskets, through those shady paths that admit but a straggling ray even of the noon-day sun. In winter, it may easily be believed that these lanes are dark and wet,—and that the air in them is damp; and even in the later weeks of autumn, it is wise to keep on the highways, as the decomposition of accumulated vegetable matter, and the want of a free circulation of air, cannot be otherwise than unwholesome. Walking through the bye-paths of Jersey, one is struck with the luxuriance of vegetation,—especially in the south-eastern parts of the island: the growth of ivy I have already spoken of; the high banks, are everywhere overspread with a multitude of shrubs, and wild flowers; and many kinds of garden produce too, attain an enormous size.

But before leaving altogether, the subject of roads, let me observe, that although the new military roads of which I have spoken, contribute greatly to the improvement of the island, it is doubtful if they do not detract from its security in a military point of view; and yet it was the advantage expected to be derived from these roads, in the defence of the island, that induced government to grant 1000*l.* towards their construction; for it was at that time argued, that greater facilities would by their means be offered for the transport of the island force to any threatened point. But the question obviously is, whether the advantage secured by this greater celebrity of transport, be not overbalanced, by having opened greater facilities to a superior force for penetrating into the interior,—which, before the construction of the new roads, would have been extremely difficult even in the face of a greatly inferior force.

If, before these military communications were opened, an enemy had made good his landing in any of the larger bays, the ground in front of his position would have required to be reconnoitred, before he attempted to advance into the country. On leaving the beach, every acre of ground would then have presented a fortified position; for every field is enclosed by a mound of earth, six or eight feet broad at the base, scarcely less in height, and surmounted by rows of trees, and hedges of brambles; and the only openings would have been half-a-dozen of the narrow sunk lanes flanked by these banks. It need scarcely be said, that in an advance through these lanes, an enemy would have been galled by a destructive fire

from behind these banks, on which cannon could have made no impression. To force one of these embankments would have been futile, because another would have been discovered at the distance of a musket shot farther. And if an enemy should have attempted to move a body of troops forward in one of these lanes, it might probably terminate in the court-yard of a farm house.

But all this intricacy is destroyed by the construction of the new roads; and the difficulties which would otherwise have been encountered by an enemy, greatly smoothed. Good carriage roads now lead down to the bays: these roads join a circular communication, which runs round the island; and crossing this, proceed in direct lines to St. Helier. Now, therefore, an enemy has only to keep the high road with the main body of his troops, and thus gaining the heights which surround the town, invest both it and Fort Regent. I ought, perhaps, to ask forgiveness of the general reader, for this short military digression.

Of the state of cultivation of Jersey, I shall have occasion afterwards to speak; but, remarking at present on the general features and character of the island, I would observe, that one sees but very little waste land,—unless, indeed, that which is wasted by reason of the broad banks which skirt the roads and paths; and by the quantity of useless wood. In rambling over the island, however, the wooded fertility which I have described, as being characteristic of the scenery of Jersey, will not be constantly applicable. On one part of the island,—that towards the north-

west,—you emerge from the orchards, and deep dells, and shady paths, and find open downs, which reach to the sea in that direction. These are all enclosed, and afford good pasture; and although the beautiful and the picturesque, be here left behind, these scenes are not without their charm. There is a freshness in the air, and a buoyancy of spirit felt, in treading these high open grounds: the very contrast afforded with the rest of the island, is pleasing,—since variety is always pleasing; and these downs are, besides, adorned by several kinds of flowering heath, far excelling in the size, and in the tint of its blossoms, any that is seen growing wild in Britain. It even reminded me of that which grows so abundantly in many parts of Spain, particularly on the road by San Felippe, between Murcia and Valencia.

CHAPTER III.

The Town of St. Aubin, Situation, Inhabitants—Grouville, and its Church—The Island Churches—The Town of Gorey—Mont Orgueil Castle—Magnificent Prospect—The Oyster Fishery of Gorey—Traditions—Prynne, and his Poetry—The Island Hamlets—Farm Houses—Manor Houses—Villas, and Gardens—Flowers—A few words on Climate.

St. Helier, although the chief town of Jersey, is not the only one. Jersey contains two other towns, and many hamlets. Let me first speak briefly of St. Aubin: which gives a name to the magnificent bay in

which St. Helier stands. In all the views over the bay of St. Aubin, whether from sea or land, this little town is a great adorner of the landscape. To reach St. Aubin, one must either cross the bay, from St. Helier's pier, in a boat, which at high water, and with every wind but a westerly wind, is practicable; or else, drive round the bay: and even this drive, admits of variation; for one may either choose the road,—which runs all the way within a hundred yards of high water mark,—or the fine hard sand, which stretches almost the whole distance between St. Helier and St. Aubin, and which is always passable excepting at high water.

This is a beautiful drive,—for it presents the union of a sea view and a rich landscape; a union rarely met with in England, where open downs, and sand hillocks, almost invariably mark the neighbourhood of the sea. All the way to St. Aubin, the road is skirted by a range of beautiful heights, covered with wood, and meadows, and everywhere presenting the aspect of perfect fertility. A little before reaching St. Aubin, the road leaves the sea shore, and ascends the eminence on the other side of which St. Aubin is situated; and at the top of this eminence, one has reached the entrance of the town, and of the steep irregular street which descends on the other side to the sea.

Nothing can be more pleasing than the situation of St. Aubin; partly skirting the shore, and partly lying on the rocky and well-wooded heights, that from the backs of the houses descend perpendicularly into the sea; and backed, and surrounded on three sides, by a

very fertile, and yet a picturesque country. To the lover of quiet and seclusion, St. Aubin is just such a place as might be chosen among a thousand. There are many good houses in this little town; for be it known, that St. Aubin was not always the quiet little nook it now is. Once it was the chief town for trade; and here resided the principal merchants: but like other great revolutions, St. Helier rose, and St. Aubin fell; and its population now consists of those old residents, who have still their houses and a little property there,—and who, with the surgeon, and a few shopkeepers, and some ten or twelve English families who rent houses, or live in lodgings, eke out the vegetative population of this retreat from the world. Besides the flux and reflux of the tide, St. Aubin has other little events to mark the progress of time; there is the rattling of the car over the ill-paved street, going every day to and from St. Helier; and, during the summer and autumn, there are parties almost daily passing through to visit the neighbouring country: then, it happens occasionally, that in neap tides, a vessel of too large dimensions to enter St. Helier's harbour, casts anchor near St. Aubin, in the big roads, as they are called in Jersey: and this, also, is an event.

St. Aubin, too, has its inn, and its market place; and it also boasts its pier, projecting from a rock, surmounted by a fortress, mounting fourteen guns. At low water, the rock and harbour are left dry; but, at high water, there is a depth of thirty feet within the pier. There are several handsome villas in the neighbourhood of St. Aubin, inhabited mostly

by Jersey families, who maintain among themselves a very friendly intercourse.

I have spent two or three long summer days delightfully, in the neighbourhood of this secluded village: the surrounding country is beautiful and diversified; the views over the bay, enchanting; sheltered by the high cliffs, there is seldom a rude wind to annoy and distract one: the usual calmness of the sea, too, is in harmony; and, after idling away a day among these quiet scenes, one may chance to find a bit of fresh fish, and an indifferent good cutlet at the inn.

There is no church in St. Aubin; but St. Brelade, of which I shall afterwards speak, and in which parish St. Aubin lies,—and St. Peter's church, are neither of them at any great distance. St. Peter's is celebrated in Jersey by the valley which bears its name; and which has the reputation of being the most beautiful valley in the island. It is certainly a pretty valley; but those who have explored the island, and followed the bye paths, will scarcely allow it the precedence. I know several which I prefer to it, one especially which enters from the north of St. Helier, at a spot called the Town Mills; and which is not only greatly more extensive than St. Peter's, but more varied in its character.

The third town in Jersey, is Gorey,—now, owing to its oyster fishery, a place of more importance than St. Aubin; and always more attractive to strangers, from its immediate vicinity to Mont Orgueil Castle,—which, entitled as it is, to be called the pride of Jersey, is well worthy of its name. The road from St. Helier

to Gorey is scarcely less beautiful than that from St. Helier to St. Aubin ; and is more varied in its character. It does not skirt the sea shore, but passes through a rich low country, wooded in its immediate vicinity, but separated from the sea, by low damp meadows, some parts of which, lie several feet below high water mark. It is worth one's while however, to make a circuit by the sea shore, which presents at low water, an aspect of singular ruggedness and desolation. Look over the sea at high water, and a few points of dark rocks are seen rising above the surface: as the tide falls, these increase in number, and magnitude; till, at low water, the whole of this part of the coast, extending for four or five miles, and at least two miles below high water mark, is covered by a terrific congregation of rocks of all forms and dimensions, and of various heights; forming a barrier far more effectual, than any that art could raise for the defence of the island. Absurdly enough, on some of the most distant of these, martello towers are erected. The once prevailing mania for martello towers, has been extensively indulged in, in Jersey: all round the island, these ruined defences are seen,—adding somewhat to the picturesque aspect of the shore, but little I suspect, to the security of the island. I must not forget however, that I am at present on the road to Gorey.

Before reaching this town, and after passing a tolerable lofty ridge, one drops down upon the church and hamlet of Grouville,—the name of the parish in which Gorey lies. There is the church,—and the parsonage, —and a public house or two,—and two or three or four other houses, and a few cottages, scattered about;

and these, mingled as they are, with gardens and orchards, form a very pretty feature in the scenery of this part of the island. I think the church of Grouville, one of the prettiest in Jersey; there is much quiet rural beauty about it, and the neighbouring parsonage. Scarcely will the interior of any of the churches repay a visit to them; but in general, their situation is highly attractive; their plain towers or steeples, and ancient solid architecture, are in excellent keeping with the close, and wooded scenery which generally surrounds them; and which has itself, an antique character, from the quantity of ivy which clings to the trunks of the trees, and the over-arching branches which in many places meet, above the road. The churches of Jersey differ very much in their antiquity,—and consequently, considerably in their stile. That of Grouville, is one of the most modern; it was erected in the beginning of the fourteenth century.

Mont Orgueil Castle is seen, some time before one reaches the village of Gorey, which lies at its foot; but the village must be skirted before reaching the castle. The village lies, partly close to the sea and harbour, and partly on the height, which rises towards the entrance to the castle; and in situation, has every thing to recommend it. But it is owing to the oyster fishery, that any peculiar importance attaches to this little town. This fishery, is the chief support of Gorey, and is of considerable importance to the island at large. Upwards of two hundred and fifty boats are employed in the fishery; about one half of which belong to the island: and in recent years the fishery has employed

as many as fifteen hundred sailors, besides nearly a thousand persons, chiefly women and boys, in matters connected with the fishery. The oysters after being brought to Gorey, are sorted; the large, are sent to St. Helier for sale,—while the smaller are set apart for the English market; and it is from the Gorey fishery, that the Colchester oyster market is chiefly supplied. It is computed that between 20 and 30,000*l.* is annually returned into the island, from the produce of the oyster fishery. The oysters brought to St. Helier's market, are of an inferior quality: they are coarse, and tough; and scarcely to be relished by those who have been accustomed to the best Colchester oyster.

It may easily be believed, that during the season, from the 1st of October to the 20th of May, Gorey presents a scene of bustle and animation; and the spectacle is not only animated, but beautiful, when on a fine spring afternoon, the fleet of fishing boats with full sails and bent masts, is seen under the influence of a gentle breeze, making for their general rendezvous.

Some awkward disputes have arisen from time to time, and now indeed exist between the English and French authorities, respecting the fishing boundaries; which are not very clearly defined. The oyster banks lie near to the French coast, and it is not yet settled, whether the distance from the French coast, within which, the fisheries are permitted, is to be computed from low or high water mark: a difference however of very material consequence, as regards the productiveness of the fishery, on a coast, where the tide recedes nearly four miles. It is certainly of the utmost importance, that this dispute be settled speedily. Already,

the fishery is somewhat on the decline; and unless the very disadvantageous provisional arrangement entered into by the British government on the representation of Prince Polignac, be changed, Jersey will lose altogether this important branch of trade, which will be transferred to the inhabitants of the opposite shores.

But the great attraction of Gorey, is its neighbour, Mont Orgueil Castle, which is certainly one of the most striking and picturesque of any of those remnants of antiquity, that in any country add ornament to scenery, or interest to tradition. Its situation is most commanding, standing upon the summit of a rocky headland, which juts into the sea; and stretching its walls, and mounds, inland, along the neck of land that connects the rock with the rest of the island. Whether seen from land or from sea, Mont Orgueil is well entitled to the appellation of an imposing ruin. In many parts, the walls are yet entire; but in other places, massive as they are, they have yielded to the pressure of time; and the mantle of ivy, which in most parts hangs from their very summits, is in fine union with the grey tint of age, that here and there is seen, where the walls are bare; and with the loop-holes, and "rents that time has made."

The ascent to the summit is somewhat toilsome; but one is amply repaid for the labour of it, by the magnificence of the prospect. It embraces several of the bays which lie on either side,—the richly wooded range of heights, that gird the central parts of the island,—the village far below, with its little harbour, and shipping,—the whole expanse of sea,—and the distant coast of France. This, in ancient days, was

an important place. Its origin and builder, are alike unknown; but it was a place of some consequence in the reign of King John, by whose directions, its fortifications were strengthened and enlarged. In Falle's history of the island, this castle bears a conspicuous part,—but these matters do not lie within the scope of my work, which has reference only to the present condition of the Channel Islands.

Two noted persons have been inmates of Mont Orgueil Castle; Charles the Second, who remained in it several months, and whose apartment is yet shewn,—and the well known Prynne, who was a prisoner in it from August 1637, to November 1640. While in confinement, he celebrated it in verse,—and entitled his poem, "A poetical description of Mont Orgueil Castle, in the isle of Jersey, interlaced with some brief meditations from its rocky, steep, and lofty situation."

Mont Orgueil is not now maintained as a military defence. Its garrison consists of a serjeant, and two privates, whose duty is confined to hoisting a flag on holidays. A royal salute used to be fired from the castle on such days; and there are still some mounted guns; but this waste of powder has been discontinued.

I have now spoken of the general aspect of the island,—of its capital, and its two smaller towns, and of one or two other objects of especial interest. I have no intention of describing, or even of enumerating its hamlets; these, I may observe generally, are to be found in the neighbourhood of each of the twelve churches; and some of them, are entitled, almost to the appellation of a village: and besides

these, several other small villages, or large hamlets, are to be found along the sea coast, both east and west of St. Helier. The hamlets in Jersey, are like hamlets everywhere else,—consisting perhaps, of a parsonage, a school house, a public house, a blacksmith's shop, probably another small shop of all wares, a farm house, and a few cottages: and these dwellings are scattered about, and mingled with orchards, and gardens. Of the interior of the houses, I shall afterwards speak, when I am occupied with their inhabitants.

Besides the farm houses which one meets with, in exploring the island, you occasionally stumble upon a very large, massive, and shapeless building—evidently of some antiquity, and meant to be the habitation of persons of some distinction: perhaps there is an arched gateway, and an uncouth emblem in stone surmounting it; and it may be, there is an avenue of well grown trees, extending in a straight line from the gateway. These are the manor houses, of which there are several in the island. They are not worth going expressly to see; but if one stumbles upon them, it may be worth while to stand still. I would except the manor house of St. Ouen's, which I think, repays a journey. It is a fine venerable place; but it is in a sadly neglected condition.

Nor is the interior of the island altogether deficient in modern villas, and cottage residences; though these are not numerous, and not in general, remarkable for their beauty. Nearest to the towns, these are of course more numerous; but they are also scattered here and there, over most parts of the island; and are

generally prettily situated; and have the usual accompaniments of orchard and garden-ground. And this leads me to remark, as another feature of the external aspect of Jersey, the pretty peeps one gets into the flower gardens; and the variety of flowers which one finds in them. It is seldom,—I might say never,—that one sees a house or cottage not absolutely in a street, unaccompanied by less or more garden; and in many of the gardens, especially those nearest to the town, a fine blow of beautiful flowers is generally seen. Besides the flowers and shrubs, that are met with in any English garden, we find many that are usually considered green-house plants in England. All kinds of myrtles grow luxuriantly, and flower regularly in the open air; the hydrangea is seen at almost every other cottage door,—measuring, perhaps, from eight to twelve feet in circumference, and four or five in height. The *verbena*, or lemon plant, is also common. Trees too, that are strange to English eyes, are seen in the course of a morning's ramble,—particularly the fig; and I have pulled this fruit, in as great perfection, from trees in Jersey, as anywhere in the southern parts of the continent. Among the timber trees too, the Spanish chestnut, and the evergreen oak, are oftener seen than in England. All these little things, are distinctive features in the external aspect of the island; and cannot be omitted in this general view.

The climate of Jersey, is always understood to be one of the chief attractions of the island; and although I cannot but think that its superiority in this respect has been overrated, yet it has certainly, upon the

whole, the advantage of England. I do not at present, speak of climate, as connected with health; to this subject, a separate chapter will by and by be dedicated, by a more competent pen. I speak of climate, merely as its influences are felt by the healthy; and, as its greater or less excellence, contributes to one's enjoyment.

That the climate of Jersey is warmer than that of any part of England is certain. The mean annual temperature for the three years, ending with 31st December, 1833, I have ascertained, from an unerring source, to be 52. 50. This higher average than the climate of England presents, arises more, from the higher temperature of winter, than of summer. During the three years ending with the commencement of 1834, the thermometer never rose above 83; nor ever fell below 27, and was during these years, but very rarely below the freezing point. These facts, which sufficiently establish the higher temperature of the climate of Jersey, have been kindly communicated to me by Dr. Hoskins, of that island, whose thermometrical and meterological observations have been accumulated during several years, by the most accurate instruments.

The climate of Jersey, approaches nearer to that of Penzance, than to any other part of England: but there are differences; for although the mean annual temperature of the two places differs very little, the temperature is differently distributed over the months. The results of the thermometer in Jersey are curious, as exhibiting the mean temperature of the different months. The following is the enumeration of the

months, in the order of their respective temperature, beginning with the highest:—viz. August, July, June, September, May, October, April, November, December, March, February, January. This distribution of heat, certainly differs materially from any part of England. In England, March would rank higher; and October, November, and December lower.

During the two years that I resided in the Channel Islands, I never saw a flake of snow; nor any frost which did not yield during the forenoon; and from April till October, I should say, fires are rarely necessary. Jersey possesses another decided point of superiority,—the equability of its temperature during the twenty-four hours. In England, a hot day, is often, in summer, succeeded by a chilly evening: but in Jersey, the chill of evening rarely admonishes one, of the necessity of closing the window. The dews however, are extremely heavy,—so much so, that early on a summer morning, one might easily believe, that a light shower had recently fallen on the pavement of the streets.

More rain falls in Jersey, than in most parts of England; but less, it is believed, than in Devonshire and Cornwall. I have not been able to ascertain the average depth, for in the summer of 1833, no rain fell during many months; but this drought was amply compensated by the rains of the following winter. The winter of 1833-34; formed an exception everywhere. At Jersey, there was a succession of tempests from the beginning of December, till the beginning of February.

High winds are certainly very prevalent in Jersey;

and this, as far as pleasure is concerned, almost balances the superiority of climate in other respects. A perfectly calm day, even in summer, is rare; and generally speaking, even the finest weather may be called blowy weather.

The general superiority of temperature in Jersey, compared with England, will have already appeared from the incidental notice of the productions found in the gardens; and which acquire full maturity without artificial heat. On the 5th of January, 1834, walking on the sea coast, I observed peas, a foot above ground, growing within a very few yards of high water mark; and while I am now writing (21st January) I have on the table before me, a nosegay of narcissus, jonquils; stock, double wall-flower, rosemary in flower,—myrtle in flower, polyanthus, mignionette, hyacinth, and woodbine, in full bloom. Making allowance for the extraordinary mildness of the winter of 1833-34, in England as well as in Jersey, I think I may be warranted in doubting, whether such a nosegay could have been gathered in England on that day, in one garden, where no particular pains were taken in the cultivation of flowers.

CHAPTER IV.

The Sea Coast—Bays, Coves, and Creeks—Plan of a Journey—Druidical Remains—Rozel Bay, and its attractions—Boulay Bay—its aptitude for a Naval Station—Grève de Lecq—Charming Scenery—St. Brelade's Bay—The Church and Chapel—Rose d'Armour—Natural Defences of Jersey—Rocks, and Rock Scenery—Tides and Currents—Traditions.

I have as yet confined myself to the external face of the island in the interior. I shall in this chapter speak of those numerous, and beautiful bays, creeks, and coves, which are peculiarly characteristic of Jersey; and which by many, are considered its greatest ornament.

The whole circumference of Jersey is indented by bays, creeks, and coves, of all dimensions,—from the wide bay whose curve measures four or five miles,—to the little creek, which measures but a few hundred yards across the mouth; and so different are these bays and coves from each other, not only in their dimensions, but in their forms, and in the natural scenery by which they are surrounded, that if the traveller, who has but a few days to spare for the natural beauties of the island, inquires what he must see? the bays, are always enumerated, as among the objects most worthy of observation.

My advice to one who might be desirous of explo-

ring the coast, as well as the interior of the island, would be, to make the circuit of the coast, which with the exception of some few headlands, it is quite possible to do,—sometimes following the bridle road, or the foot path which runs near the sea; sometimes making a path for one's self; and sometimes descending to the beach, and taking advantage of low water, to double the cliffs and promontories. This, I have myself done; and I do not know that four or five days can be passed more agreeably. To make this little journey as it ought to be made, four or five days are required; for one is apt to linger long among the quiet, sweet, and secluded spots, that in following the sea-line, every hour almost, present themselves. I need scarcely say, that accommodation for the night, is not to be had at the spot where each day's journey might end: but by diverging a mile or two from the coast, such supper and lodging may be had in one or other of the hamlets, as ought to satisfy a traveller; and each day the circuit may be resumed, from the point where it was left off the night before. The details of such a journey, which would necessarily be altogether descriptive, and of considerable length, belong rather to a guide book, than to a work of this kind, and would be uninteresting to the general reader who had no intention of visiting the island. I shall therefore speak only, of those parts of the coast which are the most interesting.

I have already spoken of St. Aubin's bay, which is certainly the noblest of all the bays of Jersey: for although the curve of St. Ouen's bay be considerably wider, it is not nearly so deep,—the curve line of the

former, measuring at least double the width across its mouth. The beauty of St. Aubin's bay depends greatly upon the state of the tide, whose rise and fall is not less than forty feet. At high water, this brimful bay is scarcely to be surpassed. The other bays which I shall mention as deserving of notice, are St. Catherine's bay; Rozel bay; Boulay bay; Grève de Lecq, and St. Brelade's bay.

The first of these I shall not dwell upon; the road to it, from Mont Orgueil Castle winds along the cliffs, and skirts a small cove called Anne Port, near to which are some of those druidical remains, which are found everywhere within a certain degree of latitude, to interest the antiquarian and astonish the vulgar. The antiquities of the island, I shall leave to those who have handled them, and pass on to St. Catherine's bay, which although not equal in picturesque beauty to some of those still to be mentioned, possesses considerable attractions; and an insulated tower, at the southern point, adds greatly to the interest of the scene.

But one of, if not the very sweetest of all the bays of Jersey, is Rozel. This is indeed a very beautiful spot: it is rather an inlet, or deep creek than a bay; and all the features that surround it, are calculated to increase its attractions. High cliffs and banks hem it in; deep wooded glens are seen branching into the interior; there is a little harbour too,—and a few fishermen's houses scattered on the beach; and the barracks, erected not far distant, although not very picturesque in their form, yet, owing to their untenanted and dilapidated state, are not altogether out

of keeping with the general features of the scene. But these barracks are now put to a use far different from that for which they were intended. Rozel is the favourite spot for pic-nic parties; and nothing can be more convenient than a room in this building, as a rendezvous after the scrambles of the morning.

Boulay bay, on the northern coast, is not only remarkable for the bold character of the scenery by which it is surrounded: but is important in other respects. The idea has long been entertained by government, of constructing on some part of the coast of Jersey, a naval station, which in time of war, would not only be a safeguard to the island, but an efficient protection to the trade of the Channel, as well as a convenient point of observation, from which the movements of the French coast, from Cherbourg to Brest, might be watched. Boulay bay seemed to offer the greatest advantages for this object. Its roadstead affords easy access, and good anchorage; and there being a considerable depth of water in Boulay bay, when all the other bays of the island are dry, attention was naturally attracted towards it. Several surveys have accordingly been made, and soundings taken; and it has been ascertained, that by the construction of a sufficiently extensive pier, and breakwater, a haven might be formed, capable of being employed as a naval station. A pier on a limited scale, has been sometime ago constructed by direction of the States of Jersey, at a considerable cost; and this would of course form the commencement of the government work, should such a work be resolved upon. The latest survey was made little more than a year ago;

and the result was equally favourable to the plan; though the sum required for the object, was estimated at a much larger amount than was at first contemplated.

As an object of interest to the traveller, Boulay bay is not without its attractions: the rocks in its neighbourhood, are bold, and precipitous; and the contrast between the wooded and cultivated shores of many of the other bays,—and the naked, heath-covered heights that slope from the cliffs above Boulay bay, are even agreeable.

Between Boulay bay, and the next spot I mentioned, "Grève de Lecq," many interesting spots will be found by the traveller who makes a circuit of the whole coast; and the lover of caverns, will find abundant room for the indulgence of his curiosity. Grève de Lecq is not a bay, but a cove; and to my mind, realizes the precise meaning of the word,—such as I have been used to affix to it, when in perusing the voyages of old navigators, I have read, that the vessel put into a deep and sheltered cove, in some uninhabited island, in search of wood and water. Such is Grève de Lecq; approached through a narrow and deep valley, of a wild, but beautiful aspect; bounded by nearly perpendicular cliffs; and offering, alike in its form, and situation, and general features, a perfect picture of a solitary island cove: here too, the sea has worn caves among the rocks; and here, on a fine summer evening, when the sun flames up the narrow valley, gilding the broad leaved fern, and the clumps of oak that checker the slopes; and when all is still, but the low plash of the little waves, one may linger,

in the conviction, that no island of more distant seas, offers a sweeter scene.

I have mentioned one other bay,—that of St. Brelade, which lies in the southern part of the island,—and which, for many reasons, is one of the most interesting of all its bays. The shores of this bay are sloping,—as are all the southern shores of the island, and are everywhere covered with a small ground rose, of the finest colour, and emitting all the fragrance of the "rose d'amour." Excepting in the southern parts of Bavaria, I have never observed this rose elsewhere than in Jersey. St. Brelade's bay has an attraction which none of the other bays possess. The ancient parish church stands on the west side of the bay, quite at the water's edge, elevated a little above it; the churchyard is washed by the sea at high tide; and on this side of the bay, a picturesque back ground is formed by rock, and wood,—and by a deep cleft, that runs up from the shore. The church itself, is the most ancient in the island; it is extremely small, and extremely plain; and boasts neither tower nor spire; and one of the old chapels of the island, which are anterior in the date of their erection, to the churches, stands in the churchyard. There are many other remains of these chapels in Jersey; but this is the only one in any tolerable preservation. The curious in antiquities may find wherewithal to speculate upon, in the vestiges of some rude paintings that are still to be discovered on the walls of the chapel, and which in their day, were no doubt thought to embellish them.

Take it all in all, the bay of St. Brelade, is perhaps

the most attractive of the island bays. Boulay bay is grander; St. Aubin's nobler; Rozel and Grève de Lecq, more secluded; but in none of them, do we find so much, as in St. Brelade's, the union of the barren, the wild, and the picturesque; and in none of them, do the works of man, harmonize so well, with the natural scenery that surrounds them.

The coast, and shores of Jersey, present strong natural defences: for independently of the precipitous cliffs, which form almost the whole northern shores of the island,—and of the enormous beds of rocks which in the southern and eastern shores, stretch for several miles from high water mark, great chains of rock extend at some distance from shore, along both the north and south of the island; and numerous isolated rocks, some of them elevated high, and others but a little, above the surface of the water, lie scattered in the surrounding sea. These, independently of the direct dangers that arise from them, produce a multitude of conflicting currents, which, joined to the great force of the tide, render the navigation of the shores of Jersey both difficult and hazardous. If a vessel be seen in distress in a heavy gale, it is usual to say, "if she be a Jersey vessel, she 's safe enough, but if a stranger, she 'll be lost."

There are traditions, not only that the chain of rocks of which I have spoken, formed in remote times, a part of the island, but that it was connected by a bridge, with France. That the former tradition may have some foundation, is probable; and indeed there are incontestable proofs that considerable tracts of land, now lying far within the range of the tide, were

formerly available to man: but that Jersey ever approached at any period, the shores of the continent, is an assertion too ridiculous to merit examination. Marvels are always popular; and the people of Jersey are not less credulous than their neighbours. These traditions have probably originated in the great fluctuations of the tide; and the shallowness of the sea in many parts. Around Jersey, the tide, as I have already mentioned, rises from forty to forty-five feet; and on the opposite coast, at St. Malo, the rise is not less than fifty-five feet. The reader will be able to form some idea of the distance which the tide ebbs, by referring to the map, on which the dotted line marks the sea line at low water.

CHAPTER V.

THE INHABITANTS OF JERSEY.

The Condition of the Country People—Their Character—Independence—Penuriousness—Industry—Saving Habits—Facts and Illustrations—The "Quid Pro Quo"—Mode of Life—A Jersey Farm House—Cooking—Peculiarities of Life—Dress—Holidays, and Amusements—Personal Appearance—Reputation for Honesty—Vraic Gathering, and its Accompaniments—Ancient Usuages.

Now that I have given the reader, as I trust I have, some idea of the appearance of the island of Jersey, he may possibly feel some desire to know, what sort of people inhabit it. To this subject, I shall devote the present chapter.

I need scarcely say, that the character, manners, and genius of a people, are not to be judged of from what we observe among the upper, or higher classes. These in all countries, resemble each other; and although, from the isolated position of Jersey, and from other causes which I shall afterwards enumerate, peculiar traits are more observable among the upper classes of Jersey, than in larger communities,—yet I shall look in the first place, for national traits, among the country people,—that largest class of the natives, who are at once, proprietors, occupiers, and labourers of the soil. This is, with few exceptions, the condition of all the country people. Their possessions are from two, or three *vergées*, up to twenty or thirty; but that I may speak more intelligibly, I may say from one, up to ten or twelve English acres. Some few properties may run up to fifty, sixty, or even more acres; but this is extremely rare. The wealth of a Jerseyman, is not, however, to be estimated by the number of his *vergées*. A man possessing but a limited number of *vergées*, may be an extensive holder of rents, secured upon other possessions: and this requires a few words of explanation. A man who is in want of money, charges his property with the payment for ever, of any number of quarters of wheat; and these quarters, are transferable in the market, and divisible. (i. e.) If A. lends B. a sum of money, equal to twenty quarters annual charge,—A. may transfer these to C., D., E., and F., five quarters to each; and each of these individuals again, may transfer his claim to five different individuals: so that quarters, are a floating heritable property, and are

readily bought by any one who happens to have a little spare money; and as this, includes almost every farmer in Jersey, there are few who have not been purchasers, and are proprietors of some quarters.

It must always happen, that where men cultivate their own land, and labour for their own profit, a certain independence of character will be engendered,—an independence, whose foundation is natural and just,—and which is in itself, honourable to the possessor. In Jersey, other things contribute to foster this spirit among the inhabitants,—particularly the possession of certain political rights and privileges, of which I shall afterwards have occasion briefly to speak; as well as the isolated position of the island which they inhabit. The spirit indeed, which animates the mass of the people,—more especially, the inferior classes, is strongly republican; and the blunt independence of character and manner, as well as other evidences of this spirit, bear no small resemblance to the traits which attach to our brethren across the Atlantic. The surplus labour required upon the soil, beyond that which the possessors and their families can give,—or which is wanted for the cultivation of thoseproperties which are in the hands of English residents, is performed by English, Irish and French labourers; for, Jersey labourers are not to be obtained for hire, though there is no difficulty in obtaining an exchange of labour, which is more consonant with their notions of independence. Among female servants too, there is a good deal of the American "help." There is no absolute rudeness among them; but there is much of the free and easy; and the same treatment which

would be acceptable to an English servant, would speedily offend the sensitiveness of a Jersey born damsel.

It is a fact, that in all countries where we find a love of independence, and where that independence of character is generated by independence in worldly circumstances, we also find a strong disposition towards avarice, and its natural accompaniments,—parsimony, and excessive frugality. The origin of this, is not difficult to account for: independence in worldly circumstances, is absolutely essential towards independence of character and action; and men therefore, naturally employ the means by which this independence may be secured. With acquisition too, grows the love of it: and thus, we may easily comprehend how, in an isolated community, its members, gradually enriching themselves, and perceiving yearly, the certain results of frugality, should acquire habits which border upon the niggardly and sordid.

That this love of acquisition, and a strict frugality, form, along with independence, another strong trait of Jersey character, is undeniable: and although it be true, that these traits are sometimes offensive, we are scarcely inclined to quarrel with that, which presents to us a population without paupers; and a state of society in which, there is no man who does not feel himself above the contempt of the proud, and the sneer of the rich.

The love of acquisition, and the economical habits which accompany it, are incapable of being separated; and the same traits afford proof of both. Of these characteristics, abundant evidence may be found in

the habits and manner of life, among the country people of Jersey.

I have heard it said, that a Jerseyman will do anything rather than put his hand in his pocket: and judging by facts which have come to my knowledge, I incline to put some faith in the saying. It frequently happens, for example, that rather than lay out money for inferior grain, to feed poultry, a small Jersey farmer will use his best wheat for this purpose: and several instances have come within my knowledge, in which his cows have been all but starved,—fed on the most miserable offals, or sold, at any loss, because he could not prevail with himself to go to market, and purchase proper food for them. In these examples, which I am far from asserting to be universally applicable, but which are certainly not unusual, we recognise avarice carried so far as to defeat its own ends.

The strong disinclination of the Jerseyman to part with money,—or, which is the same thing,—the disinclination to consume that part of his farm produce, which is readily converted into money, (unless by consuming it, a greater expenditure is prevented), is strongly exhibited in case of illness. For example, if a nourishing broth diet be ordered by a medical man, it is scarcely possible to prevail with the patient to sacrifice the barn door fowl, which next Saturday, would fetch eighteen-pence in the market: he would rather run up a doctor's bill, and swallow physic.

The "quid pro quo" is also a tolerably general rule of conduct. A loan is expected to be repaid by a loan; labour to be given for labour: and here, independence of character, and love of money, go hand

in hand. Rather than pay hire to a labourer, a Jersey farmer will ask the assistance of his neighbour; but at the same time, feels, that his independence of character calls upon him to repay that labour which he has borrowed. This is all right: but the principle of "tit for tat," is at times carried too far. I have known two young ladies, in the course of a walk into the country, call at a farm house, and after taking some bread, tender payment for it, which was accepted: and I have known others, who, having been drenched with rain in the course of a walk, took refuge in a farm house, the mistress of which, accepted payment for having lighted a fire of sea-weed, to warm and dry them. But with all this penuriousness, a Jerseyman is altogether above accepting pecuniary assistance from strangers; and holds in special horror, the resort of parish charity. May he long continue so to feel; and to prefer the rule of "quid pro quo," so long as it is allied to that independence which abhors, because it places him above the want of parochial relief.

The love of, and the spirit of independence, have other accessaries than penuriousness. Industry is one of these, and this is sufficiently conspicuous in the natives of Jersey. They may be said to be, in all ranks, a hard working people; and appear never to consider themselves above their business,—a result, which in England, too often accompanies success. With few exceptions, "all work and no play," is their maxim to live by; and the inclination to make the most of time, is observable among the country women, as well as among the country men. If on a market

morning, you meet half a dozen women heavily laden with vegetables and other country produce, it is ten to one they have all contrived to keep their hands unembarrassed, and are busily employing them with the knitting needle: and when sitting in the market place with their fish, fruit, or butter, few sit idle: even in the midst of winter, the knitting needle is still in their hands. I have even seen women on horseback, knitting as they rode to market.

It may easily be surmised, that the mode of life among the country people, is in conformity with the national traits of which I have been speaking. Let me first give the reader some idea of a Jersey farm house. I take at a venture, one of the middle order, the proprietor of which, owns about fifteen vergées, or from five to six English acres; and is besides, not without his "quarters." You enter a green shady lane, branching from one of the main roads; and reach a high wooden gate, flanked by two granite pillars, overgrown with drawf moss. Entering by a small door on the left of the gate, you find yourself in a rather dirty yard, paved with blueish pebbles. On one side, stands the farm house built of stone, solid and ungainly in its form, and roofed with tile, or, it may be, with thatch. On the other side, stand the barns, byre, cider press, hay stack, &c. The front of the house is most probably covered with a vine, which sometimes half shades the windows, and is religiously preserved; although from the great abundance of out-door vines, its value is little, and its utility questionable. The farm house has two doors; one, leading you into the kitchen in common use; the other, open-

ing into a passage, having, what is called the best parlour on one side, and the best kitchen on the other; and opposite to the front door, at the other end of the passage, is the back door, leading into the garden—a very faulty arrangement,—for in consequence of it, a stiff breeze is constantly kept up within the house.

If your visit be made about noon, you will find a good fire burning on the hearth, boiling the soup kettle. The fire is composed of "vraic," (of which I shall afterwards speak), and a few fagots; and the soup which boils in the kettle, is called "*soupe à choux*,"—the staple of Jersey country diet. This soup, which is also known by the name of "*soupe à la graisse*," is made by boiling together, as much cabbage, lard, and potatos, as suffices for the family dinner. Sometimes, but rarely, a little meat is added; and sometimes, parsnips, or turnips, take the place of potatos. This soup is the never failing dinner of the great mass of the country people of Jersey; and although tea for breakfast is now pretty universal, *soupe à choux* is still used even at that meal by many. There is another soup, to which this *soupe à choux* occasionally yields,—conger-eel soup, which is considered rather a delicacy, and is not held contemptible even among the upper ranks. For my own part, I have found it sufficiently savoury to justify its reputation. It is made thus: to three or four pounds of eel, add three pints of water, one of milk, one of green peas, a handful of sweet herbs, and a quarter of a pound of butter: boil all together for about half an hour.

Among the better class of farmers, there are occasional deviations from the "*soupe à choux*," or addi-

tions to it. About once a fortnight, a dish of corned or pickled pork, or salted fish, is admitted; and roasted apples or baked pears, are a frequent accompaniment. This diet costs little: the lard, the cabbage, the milk, the apples, the pears, are all farm produce, and not valuable in the market; and the conger-eel, at particular times, is extremely cheap and abundant. Milk, is scarcely at all used in a Jersey menage; it is all wanted for butter, either for the market, or for indoor consumption. In fact, a Jersey farmer lives upon that part of the produce of his land, which is the least valuable; and carries the rest to market. The apple pies, and gooseberry pies, which are so frequent in an English farm house, are almost unknown in Jersey. Roasted apples, and especially baked pears, which require no sugar, and which are always shaken off the trees in sufficient abundance for winter stock, are a good, and a cheap substitute. The baked pear (especially the chaumontelle), is universally liked,—and is a common addition at tea, not only amongst the country people, but amongst the respectable tradesmen of the towns. The pears are merely put into a dish, with a very little water, and are sent to the oven. They are quite sweet enough without sugar; but taste flat.

Every Jersey family—I might almost say, of all ranks—uses cider. Of course the farmer uses the produce of his own orchard; and all country people make their own bread, from their own flour. The bakings are for the most part, once a fortnight, though some few bake weekly. I cannot speak highly of the bread, which is usually of two sorts, one whiter than the other.

The country people invariably drink tea, but take no supper; and at this meal, stewed pears are a common substitute for butter,—though it must be admitted, that butter is more freely used in a Jersey menage, than any other article of produce. In fact, excepting for tea and sugar (and of the latter, no great quantity is required, a Jersey farmer has no occasion to put his hand in his pocket: and it is a small property indeed, which does not afford a surplus beyond the value of the few articles which must be purchased at market. Neither is there much outlay in the articles of dress. Many of the habiliments both of the men and women are of worsted, which has been subjected to the knitting needle; and not only stockings, and shawls, but petticoats, and even small clothes, are of this material, and are the produce of domestic industry. Men's clothes too, are frequently fashioned at home,—though not universally: and it is a curious enough fact, that the country tailors are all women. A Jerseyman would consider the occupation of a tailor beneath him; and this trade, therefore, in the country districts, is in the hands of the females. A female tailor receives 5*d.* per day.

Such, is a sketch of the everyday manner of living among the Jersey country people; and it will be at once seen, that it is in perfect accordance with the traits of character to which I have alluded. I am told that within the last ten years, there has been considerable improvement in the mode of life. Meat is more frequently seen in the farm house; and tea, has somewhat encroached upon the sovereignty of "*soupe à la graisse.*" It must be admitted, however,

that even with these improvements, the diet is not a generous one; and suffers sadly, in a comparison with the huge pieces of bacon, the new milk cheese, and the pitchers of ale, which disappear before the farm servants of our English counties.

There are some few great holiday exceptions to the monotony of Jersey country life. Christmas, Easter, and New Year's Day, are the chief feast days of the island. Christmas time is, indeed, a week of feasting and merrymaking. On these occasions, there is a family gathering, twenty or thirty, perhaps, being assembled, including all who are related to the heads of a family, as far as cousinship. On these occasions, the "*soupe à choux*" is discarded: fresh pork is substituted for its pickled relative: sometimes, even roast beef, such as would not disgrace the table of an English squire, assumes its sovereignty: perhaps, even the market is defrauded of its goose; and puddings, of a certainty, "smoke upon the board." Mountains of cakes, too, garnish the tea table; and punch and hot wine, laugh, for once, at frugality. Eating and drinking, although the staple amusement, is not the only one. Cards and dominoes are introduced, and coppers are freely sported; while the Christmas song, the laugh, and the jest, go round. Dancing, so universal on such occasions in England, is rare in Jersey. I have often inquired the cause of this. They say it is inconsistent with the solemn origin of Christmas. But dancing is, at no time, a very general recreation among the country people; and I suspect it is the prevalence of sectarianism in Jersey, that chiefly stands in the way of this pastime.

Easter is not only a season for feasting, but for new dresses; and a great fair which is then held at Gorey, affords an opportunity of displaying them. There is also a fair on St. John's day, in the parish of St. John; and upon this occasion, more than any other, dancing is one of the amusements. The most respectable Jersey farmers, and their families, do not now frequent these fairs, which are, indeed, chiefly attended by towns-people.

When speaking of feasts and fairs, a few words may not be misplaced, respecting the personal appearance of the natives of Jersey. They are not, generally speaking, a good looking people. Of the stature and appearance of the men, a better test cannot be obtained, than the island militia; and certainly, after a review of the two or three thousand that compose this force, one must decide, that the race offers few examples of fine well-grown forms, or of handsome countenances; nor do I think the generality of the women afford any contrast. Sufficient reasons may be given for this: constant intermarriage will infallibly lead to a deterioration of the race: an ungenerous diet, will also have its effect: unwearied out-door labour is the enemy of beauty, and unfavourable to erectness of form: and, to these must be added, want of sleep, which I look upon to be a distinguishing characteristic of the country people of Jersey. The English labourer is early in the fields,—but then he goes to bed betimes. The Jersey farmer, is yet earlier in the fields; but he is also up late. In most of the Jersey country houses, lights are seen in the windows at eleven; and in many, even towards midnight.

This little sleeping, cannot fail to have its effects both on the looks, and on the constitution.

In the dress of the country people, there is nothing very remarkable; nothing precisely national. All the women wear shawls, generally black or grey; and the bonnets are almost invariably black. To several inquiries which I have made, as to the reason of this predilection for so gloomy an apparel, I have been more than once answered, that it is convenient to have black clothes in case of deaths in a family,—which, in Jersey, does not mean, merely the members of a family resident in one house; but all who are connected, however remotely; and in a spot, where intermarriages are so frequent, and where attachment to the country prevents emigration, the occasions for mourning must necessarily be very frequent.

It is generally said, that the Jersey people are honest. This is a word, however, of very wide signification. If by honest, be meant, that one is above stealing,—(and this is the general interpretation of the word in contradistinction to dishonest,—though far from Pope's meaning of "an honest man,") then, I should say, that the natives of Jersey are honest. In the cases of theft, which come before the court of justice in Jersey, Jerseymen are scarcely ever implicated; the delinquencies which arise from dishonesty, are almost invariably committed by English, Irish, or French; and the Jerseyman may certainly be called, a trustworthy person. But I do not know, that in those minor and unpunishable deviations from perfect honesty which are found in men's dealings, one with another, the inhabitants of Jersey are entitled to claim

any superiority over their neighbours. I would rather drive a bargain,—as the saying is,—with an Englishman, than with a Jerseyman; and among the market people, who everywhere, and especially in so small a community as Jersey, afford a fair sample of national character, there is quite as great a disposition to over-reach, as I have ever found in any part of Europe,—certainly greater than in France.

But I must not leave the country people, their character, and mode of life, without adverting to an usage peculiar to these islands,—one connected both with the domestic economy, and with the agriculture, of the islands. I allude to the collection of sea-weed —which is chiefly used as manure, but which is also employed as a substitute for coal and fire-wood.

This sea-weed is called in French, *varech*,—and in Jersey dialect "*vraic*;" and a busy time is the vraicking season in Jersey. This season is fixed by the island legislature; and is named twice a year, commencing generally about the 10th March, and the 20th July; and continuing each time, about ten days. I have already spoken of the beds of rocks that surround the island; and it is chiefly from these rocks, and islets, that the *vraic* is gathered. I shall afterwards, in the few observations I may have to make on agriculture, have occasion to speak of *vraic* as a manure; at present, I am only speaking of the collection of *vraic*, as an island usage, which is singularly striking to a stranger.

When the vraicking season begins, those whose families are not numerous enough to collect the needful supply, assist each other; and the vraicking par-

ties, consisting of eight, ten, or twelve persons, sally forth betimes, from all parts of the island to their necessary, laborious, but apparently cheerful work. Although a time of labour, it is also a season of merriment: "vraicking cakes," made of flour, milk, and sugar, are plentifully partaken of; and on the cart which accompanies the party to the sea-beach, is generally slung a little cask of something to drink, and a suitable supply of eatables. Every individual is provided with a small scythe, to cut the weed from the rocks, and with strong leg and foot gear. The carts proceed as far as the tide will allow them; and boats, containing four or six persons, carry the vraickers to those more distant rocks, which are unapproachable in any other way.

It is truly a busy and a curious scene: during this season, at half tide, or low water, multitudes of carts and horses, boats, and vraickers, cover the beach, the rocks, and the water; and so anxious are the people to make the most of their limited time, that I have often seen horses swimming, and carts floating,—so unwilling are the vraickers to be driven from their spoil by the inexorable tide.

But this sea weed is not, as I have said, employed solely as manure, it is also used as fuel; and for this purpose, it is collected at other times than at the regular vraicking seasons,—not from the rocks indeed,—but from the sea beach; for of course some of the weed is constantly detaching itself from the rocks, and is borne to the shore by the tide. The collection of this sea weed, is a constant employment with those who live near the sea shore; and the produce of their

labour is either used for fuel, or is sold to those who want it. At almost all times, men, women, and children,—but chiefly the two latter,—are to be seen at this employment; gathering, or spreading the weed out to dry: they use a rake, or three-pronged pitch fork; and a wheelbarrow, in which it is carried above high water mark to be dried. This is the universal fuel of the country; and it makes a hot, if not a cheerful fire. Coal is scarcely at all used; and only a very small quantity of wood along with the *vraic;* and this even, not universally. On feast days only, and family gatherings, a coal fire is lighted in the best parlour.

There are some ancient usages and superstitions peculiar to Jersey, some of which are not altogether laid aside; though they are all fast falling into disuse. I have heard of a singular usage, which did, and which as some say, does still prevail in the parish of St. John. It is termed "*faire braire les poëles,*" and consists in obtaining a large brass boiler,—partly filling it with water; and encircling it with a covering of strong rushes: strings, also of rushes, are attached to it; and these being wetted, the persons who surround the cauldron, draw them rapidly through their hands, by which, a vibration, and an accompaniment of uncouth and inharmonious sounds, is produced. At the same time too, others blow through cow's horns, and swell the note of discord. This shews a low state of civilization; though doubtless, a barbarous custom may be maintained for some time after the intellect rejects it.

CHAPTER VI.

The Upper Classes in Jersey—Condition, and Character—The Influence of Party Spirit, and its Bitterness—Society—Distinctions—Language—Religious Differences—Formation of the Upper Class—The Liberal Professions.

I have hitherto been speaking of the Jersey country people,—the lower and middle classes,—among whom also, I include a part of the town population. It remains to speak briefly of the upper classes in Jersey, —those, who in England, would occupy the middle station.

I have already said, that there is a similitude in the manners of the upper classes of all countries; but that the insulated situation of Jersey, and several other causes, have preserved some strong national traits among *all* classes in Jersey. I should say, of the upper ranks, that they possess all the characteristic traits which I have enumerated, as belonging to the inferior classes,—but in a milder form. It would be absurd to expect generally, in an isolated community, such as Jersey, those enlarged views, and that absolute freedom from prejudice, which may be looked for in larger communities. There is usually, in every small district, and especially in one distinguished by exclusive privileges, an overweening attachment to place, and to all that belongs to it, which is too apt to inter-

fere with the correct exercise of judgment, in distinguishing between good and evil. This is the origin of whatever defects may be observable in Jersey character. That blind attachment to country, which, among the uneducated classes, is nearly allied to patriotism, and even to political independence, becomes, among the higher ranks, a serious blemish, standing greatly in the way of improvement, and impeding at every step, the progress of civilization. It is certain, that the number of Jerseymen who take any interest in what passes elsewhere than in the island, is extremely limited. The proceedings of the British legislature are far less interesting, than the proceedings of their own States. The procedure in a suit before the Jersey court of justice, is a far more engrossing topic, than would be, the impeachment of a king's minister: the politics of Europe at large, would have no chance, weighed in the scale against some local political contention: and if the same packet were expected to bring the decision of kings and nations, upon peace or war, or the disposal of crowns,—and also the decision upon an appeal to the Privy Council upon some insular dispute, the latter would be the subject of the first and most eager questions by the crowds assembled on the quay.

There is one thing which has greatly contributed to circumscribe the views of the people, and to foster the too exclusive insular interest. It is, the existence of a bitter party spirit. The whole inhabitants of Jersey are divided into two factions, calling themselves laurel and rose; resembling in their mutual animosity, and extreme blindness, the Guelfs and Guibbelines of the

middle ages. I may possibly have occasion to allude again to these parties, when I speak of the political constitution and privileges of the island. At present I would only observe, that the subjects upon which the animosity of party is displayed, are necessarily local matters; and thus, a feverish interest is constantly kept up, respecting insular politics,—often in themselves very unimportant; but which occupy the public attention, to the exclusion of matters which concern the great family of mankind.

It is utterly impossible, for any one unacquainted with Jersey, to form an idea of the length to which party spirit is there carried. It not only taints the fountains of public justice, but enters into the most private relations of life. A laurel, and a rose man, are as distinct, and have as little in common between them, as if they were men not only of different countries, but of countries hostile to each other. The most admirable proposition that wisdom and patriotism united ever contrived, if emanating from one party, would be received with coolness,—or more probably with open hospitality by the other. In private society too, the distinction is equally marked: families of different parties, do not mingle; and even tradesmen are in a considerable degree affected in their custom, by these distinctions. I have known laurel rigorously excluded from the chaplets which were among the destined rewards of young ladies at a public musical examination; and one hesitates even, before placing a rose bud in the bosom, or a laurel sprig among a lady's curls.

It may naturally be inquired, how independence

of mind, for which I have given the people of Jersey credit, can be coexistent with this bitter, and undistinguishing party spirit? The answer is easy. The great mass of country people, and of the tradespeople of the towns also, are of one party; and in their tenacious adherence to that party, they believe that they are defending their island privileges, which they allege, are constantly attacked by the opposite party —which consists for the most part, of the better educated and higher classes. Party spirit therefore, in the minds of the great majority of the inhabitants of Jersey, is inseparable from the preservation of their insular privileges; and is therefore, fostered by insular independence. Among that party again, which forms the minority of the inhabitants, but greatly the majority of the upper and educated classes, there is less sturdy independence of character. National traits, as I have already said, appear amongst them in a milder form. The mass of the people, incapable themselves, of accurate judgments in political matters, implicitly follow their leaders; believing all the while, that they are fighting the battle of independence: but the party opposed to them, are capable of forming more accurate judgments; and in their equally blind obedience to leaders, their independence is no way concerned.

This party spirit, so contemptible in itself, and so perfectly unimportant to all excepting those who are under its influence, deserves this notice only inasmuch as it materially influences the state of society; and acts as a dead weight upon the progress of civilization, and the march of improvement. It has crushed public

spirit, which, unless amongst a few has no exercise: for at all times, the petty triumph of party, is preferred to the public good.

It was in speaking of the too exclusive and engrossing interest which matters purely insular, possess, in the minds of Jerseymen, that I was led to speak of party spirit, as one great cause of this. I would mention, as another, the universal attachment to clubs. Almost every Jerseyman resident in St. Helier, has his club. There, every evening, questions of insular politics are discussed and commented upon; and there, consequently, party spirit is inflamed, and the interest attaching to local politics, riveted.

There is, generally, among the upper classes in Jersey, a total apathy in all that regards literature, science, and the belles lettres. This might be expected from what I have already said. It is not likely that literature and the fine arts will be prized, where the affairs of the world at large, are disregarded. An attempt was made, some time ago, to establish a literary and scientific institution. It met however, with the success which might have been expected: and an exhibition of paintings, which was opened in the summer of 183— under the auspices of that society, created little interest, and met with indifferent encouragement. That such a society was set on foot, however, and that an exhibition of the fine arts was even attempted, prove, that there are some individuals in the island, to whom the refinements of society are not indifferent.

Distinctions in society, in Jersey, are more marked by party, than by station. I do not of course mean

to say, that all ranks mingle; but there is no apparent line of demarcation in Jersey, as there is in Guernsey, between the old families, and those who have gained, and are still gaining money and consequence in trade. Wealth, in Jersey, levels other distinctions; and in this, Jersey is rather in advance of the rest of the world. Aristocracy has no separate and exclusive claims; or if it has, they are not admitted. What effect this has upon the tone of society, is another question. It would be impossible, however, in Jersey, for aristocracy to maintain its exclusiveness. Few of the families have not been indebted to commerce; and in an island, and amongst a people, decidedly commercial, trade acquires that importance, to which, from its great results, it is entitled; and the station of those who follow it, competes successfully in public estimation, with that which is maintained by ancestral inheritance. There are not, however, in Jersey, a great many wealthy people, as that term would be understood in England. Fortunes, generally speaking, are moderate: but those who are rich, are in a fair way of being richer; for they do not maintain that external display, or those expensive establishments which they could well afford; and which would be maintained by persons similarly circumstanced in England. I believe I may safely say, that no one in Jersey, spends 1200*l.* per annum; and that, with two or three exceptions, 800*l.* per annum, is the extent of island expenditure. Few close carriages are kept; and of the few who keep them, still fewer keep horses for their exclusive use. Neither is there a constant drain on expenditure from entertainments. Expen-

sive dinners, are occasionally given; and at particular seasons, family dinners are universal: but there is not as among the same class in England, a constant interchange of civilities. It is, therefore, impossible that large sums should be spent in Jersey; more especially, when we consider the absence of all those artificial claims on expenditure, which are constantly arising in larger communities; together with the greater cheapness of many of the necessaries, and of all the luxuries of life.

The unsettled state of language in Jersey, must be admitted to be a great obstacle to the refinements of civilization. The use of a pure language as one universal medium of communication, offers to the moral and intellectual condition of a people, as great a facility for improvement, as rail roads, and steam, offer to commerce. But this medium, Jersey has not yet the advantage of. The universal language is still a barbarous dialect. French, though the language of the court proceedings, and of the legislature, is not in common use even among the upper ranks: nay, the use of it, is even looked upon as affectation; and although the English language be sufficiently comprehended for the purposes of intercourse, and is most usually spoken in the best mixed society, it is certainly not understood by many, in its purity. The constant use of a dialect, necessarily induces a distaste for any other purer tongues. Their beauties are not, and cannot be appreciated; and thus, an effectual barrier is opposed to that refinement, which is the sure result of the knowledge and appreciation of the productions which belong to every perfected language. This

disadvantage, however, is gradually disappearing; and with another generation will probably be no longer felt. Children are now universally taught English; and amongst the young, there is an evident preference of English. The constant intercourse of the trades-people with the English residents; and the considerable sprinkling of English residents in Jersey society, have also their effect; and it is not improbable, that in twenty years more, English will be the language of the legislature, the judicature, and the people.

I have as yet, said nothing of religious feeling and profession in Jersey. Although there are but few Catholics in the island, the diocese of Winchester does not hold all the population in its embrace. Methodists, Independents, and Baptists, comprehend a large proportion of the inhabitants, especially, of the lower classes, and of the country people; and the divisions in the bosom of the church herself, are scarcely less marked, than those which exist between the different sects, and the church from which they have separated.

The observance of the sabbath is strictly maintained in Jersey; and the inhabitants generally, may be designated, a church-going population. Evangelical doctrines are here, as elsewhere, the most popular; and Calvinistic principles are on the advance. There is a large and influential class of churchmen in Jersey, whom many would sneeringly call saints,— but who, in the exercise of practical piety, deserve rather, the appellation of Christians.

The upper classes of Jersey, consist of those who derive their incomes from land, or other property,—

many of whom are members of the legislative, or judicial bodies; of the larger merchants and ship-owners; of members of the liberal professions; and of those who hold official situations. These are not all of one grade, and one circle in society; but all may be properly included among the upper ranks. Having mentioned the learned professions, I may observe, that they are not in an enviable state,—barely affording a return for the expenses of education. In the medical profession, fees are on a miserably low scale —a full practice scarcely affording a competency. Old usages, however, are so greatly prized in Jersey, that fees are likely for some time to remain stationary.

CHAPTER VII.

Composition of the Resident Society—Position of the Native, and the Resident Society—Mode of Life of the Residents—Jersey as a Place of Residence—Markets, and Prices of Provisions—House Rent—Incidental Expenditure—Enumeration of other Advantages, as a Residence—Disadvantages—Comparison of Jersey as a Residence, with the Principal Continental Resorts.

It is certain, that there is no colony, or dependency of Britain, in which there are so many resident English, as Jersey,—meaning by the term, those who reside in a place, without tie or employment: and, with the exception of some few great cities, Paris, Rome, Brussels, and Florence, I believe Jersey con-

tains more resident English, than any place abroad. And indeed, in those cities, a great portion of the English may be rather called a visiting, than a resident population. When I visited Lausanne some years ago, there were about four hundred resident English: in the same year at Tours, there might be about three hundred. It is needless to enumerate other places, because these are the two favourite resorts of our emigrating countrymen; and contain a much larger resident English population than Pau, Montpelier, Berne, Caen, Blois, St. Malo, Geneva, Sienna, or Pisa,—which, I think, include almost all the spots much frequented by the English; excepting, of course, a few of the great continental cities. As nearly as I have been able to ascertain, the whole number of English residents in Jersey, amounts to, at least, three thousand, exclusive of the tradespeople settled in the island. Of this number, at least three-fourths consist of officers on the half-pay of the army and navy, and their families: the remainder, is made up of individuals, who, either with large families to educate, or with limited incomes, find economy an object; and including also, some few, who are attracted to the island by the advantages of its climate. I do not include that merely migratory summer population, which glances at Jersey, on the way to France, or in a short excursion from England.

The English society of Jersey, is quite distinct from the native society: I do not say that they never mingle; but the intercourse is limited, and unfrequent. At a large party, given by a Jersey family, a few English will generally be seen; and at an English

party, there is usually a slight sprinkling of native inhabitants; but there is far from being any general intercourse. Those only indeed, who have brought letters of introduction to Jersey families; or, who maintain an establishment superior to their neighbours, receive the civilities of the island families; and these civilities are for the most part confined to a formal dinner; or a rare invitation to a large evening party.

Many of the English complain of want of hospitality on the part of the native families; of a deficiency in those attentions, which, as strangers, they think they had reason to expect: but I think they complain unjustly. It is certainly not to be expected, that the respectable Jersey families should voluntarily make the acquaintance of the English residents indiscriminately; and if those, who carry introductions, do not receive all the attention which similar letters would receive in England, all that can be said is, that every place has its usages; and the English have no more reason to complain of the exercise of hospitality in Jersey, than of the exercise of that virtue in most of the continental countries which are much frequented: and every one who has travelled much, knows, that to the generality of travellers, French or Italian hospitality, is not English hospitality. The mere fact, that Jersey derives advantage from the English who spend their money in it, is no good reason for expecting unwonted civilities. Strangers seek Jersey for their own interest; and receive, in their greater command of the luxuries of life with a limited income, the only return they had any right to expect. I will admit, however, that there is not a perfectly

cordial feeling between the natives and the residents: the tradespeople, indeed, and others who owe almost their existence to the English residents, would be fools not to express the utmost respect for them, and not to rejoice in their neighbourhood. But there is unquestionably, a very different feeling on the part of the natives, towards the residents, and towards each other. To the British government, and to Britain as a nation, there is no want of attachment in Jersey: this may arise chiefly from the respect which has been paid to the privileges of the island; and from the greater advantages which Jersey derives from its connexion with Britain, than it could derive from a connexion with any other power. I think, however, this attachment to Britain, is somewhat of an abstraction. But, to return to the English society.

The residents, owing to their great numbers, are quite independent of Jersey society; and are certainly disposed to keep up much good fellowship amongst themselves. I scarcely think there is a spot in Europe, where, among the same number, there is such constant interchange of visits. One very sufficient reason may be given for the familiarity of intercourse maintained among the English residents. Three-fourths, at least, of the whole number, are naval and military men, who have served campaigns together; and who find pleasure in renewing their acquaintance, and fighting their battles over again. And even those who have not been messmates, or shipmates, have many subjects of conversation, in common; and their information, recollections, and even prospects, run much in the same channel. At

an English party in Jersey, almost every one is Captain, or Major; and some few, Colonel.

But, although there be a very general, and familiar intercourse amongst the residents, they have naturally formed themselves into circles; those composing the circles, differing only, in their pecuniary means. Some only give and take dinners; others go to, and receive, evening parties; and others again, whose inclination or means will not permit either of these modes of social intercourse, form a still quieter circle, and adopt a still less expensive mode of enjoying each other's society. Every one, therefore, finds a circle suited to his circumstances. It must be admitted, that, unless to those who are fond of cards,—the universal amusement,—the round of visiting is somewhat monotonous. One always sees the same faces; and, in a spot so circumscribed as Jersey, conversation cannot have great novelty.

The favourite summer amusement, is the pic-nic; and for the enjoyment of this, Jersey is well calculated: it has so many secluded bays, and pleasant nooks: and scarcely a summer day passes, without several pic-nic parties to different parts of the island.

But in speaking of the resident English population of Jersey, it is natural to inquire what are the attractions which Jersey presents; and what are the advantages over England, which it possesses? for when we see it so extensively colonized, we may conclude, that it possesses some that are exclusive. The foremost of these is, unquestionably, the greater cheapness of living.

The beef and mutton, with which the Jersey mar-

ket is supplied, is almost wholly French; and although it is not, in general, to be compared with the best beef and mutton in the English markets, neither is it to be complained of. I have seen, about Christmas time, beef, that would not have disgraced any market. Veal and lamb, but especially veal, are to be found, occasionally, quite equal to the same articles in the English markets. The supply, however, of the best meat, is always (excepting about Christmas) moderate. The average price of all kinds of butchers' meat, may be stated at 6*d.* per lb. of 17½ oz. The best cuts of veal, may, perhaps, average a half-penny more. Pork is excellent; and in the best season, decidedly superior to any I have tasted in England. There is an immense consumption of it during the winter months, in Jersey, and it is generally sold at about 5*d.* per lb.

The poultry market is pretty well supplied, especially with geese. Fowls are sold at about 2*s.* 6*d.* a couple; a well-sized Turkey may be bought for from 3*s.* to 5*s.*; a good goose for 2*s.* 6*d.*, and ducks at about 1*s.* 6*d.* a pair. So far, it will be observed, Jersey has very little the advantage over very many of the English provincial towns; and but a moderate advantage over the metropolis.

Let us now come to what is usually called country farm produce.

Jersey butter has the reputation of being excellent. This character, however, is not without exceptions; and I do not, for my own part, look upon it as at all superior to that produced from the best English dairies. In the price of butter, Jersey has a decided

advantage over London, and some advantage over most parts of England. This is sufficiently proved by the large export of butter, which can bear the expense of carriage, and compete in the hands of the dealer, with the dairies of Hampshire and Dorsetshire. The average price of butter, during the summer months,—that is, from April to October, may be stated at 10*d.*, and during the rest of the year, it is about 3*d.* higher. Eggs, during the summer months, are 5*d.* per dozen; and, during the winter months, from 7*d.* to 1*s.* Milk is 2*d.* per quart, and it is generally excellent.

Let it be kept in mind, that all these prices are calculated in Jersey currency; that one shilling English, is thirteen pence, Jersey. If, for example, you purchase one pound of meat at 6½*d.*, the sixpence-halfpenny is paid by an English sixpence; or if the price be 6*d.* you receive a halfpenny back.

During the winter season, there is a separate poultry market, which is entirely stocked with French produce. Capons are then often very plentiful, and excellent; and may be bought, of a very large size, at 2*s.* 3*d.* Those of my readers who know what a fine French capon is, will not think this an exorbitant price. At this season also, there are abundance of French partridges, woodcocks, snipes, and hares. Partridges are sold at about 2*s.* 6*d.* a brace; woodcocks generally a little higher; a fine hare costs from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* The supply of game, however, is very irregular. A continuance of strong northerly winds may keep the market empty for weeks; and if the wind then suddenly shifts to the south, capons and

game may be had for half nothing. Moor game is never seen in the Jersey market.

The vegetable and fruit market is most varied and abundant. With the exception of the market of Thoulouse, which I take to be the very best for country produce in Europe, I do not remember to have seen a better than that of Jersey. It is difficult to particularise the prices of vegetables. I should say, however, generally, that they are not greatly lower, than in the most abundant English markets. In the fruit market, all the English out-door fruits are found; with some, that belong to more southern countries. The common fruits,—such as apples, pears, plums, and the berry tribe, are scarcely cheaper than they can be bought in Covent Garden; and some of them are not so cheap, as the best fruit of counties in England. Strawberries are certainly dearer. Peaches, however, I think are more abundant, and cheaper, than they are in any part of England. But those fruits which are not forced in Jersey, as they are in England, are of course cheaper. Good out-door grapes,—which, in a favourable season, are very palatable, are sold at about 6*d.* per lb.; and the finest hot-house grapes are not more than 1*s.* Melons of the best kinds, and of a size that would cost 5*s.* or 6*s.* in Covent Garden, may be purchased for from 8*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* French fruit is sometimes to be had very cheap,—particularly cherries: but as the excellence of a cherry depends altogether upon its freshness, those which have been gathered in France, are worth little.

The fish market of Jersey is very inferior to what might be expected; it is neither regularly abundant,

nor remarkable for its cheapness. The Jersey fishermen, are not fishermen solely; they have generally some property adjoining the sea; and do not always find it convenient to launch their boats. The consequence is, that the market is neither regularly nor abundantly supplied. The fish commonly brought to market, are whiting, sole, plaice, bass, grey and red mullet, john dorey, mackerel, gar,—a fish resembling an eel; and several inferior kinds of fish, which are not worth naming. The conger eel is also very common, and most kinds of shell fish are very abundant and good. Turbot is rarely seen; salmon, still more rarely; haddock, never; cod, very unfrequently; and fresh herring, scarcely ever in a palatable state.

The price of fish varies so greatly, that it is difficult to state any average price. I may say, however, that excepting the shell fish, none of them are so cheap as the same, or equally good fish in the fishy English seaports. Mullet and bass, are perhaps, cheaper in Jersey, but then the haddock, cod, and herring of the English markets are more than an equivalent. The largest and finest lobsters may be bought for a shilling; and one may have as many fine prawns for breakfast, as one can eat, for twopence.

So far, it will be seen that Jersey has no advantage over any of the more abundant English counties; and that excepting in the article of butter, the advantage over even the metropolis, is small. It is to excisable commodities we must look, for the advantage which Jersey possesses in point of cheapness. Tea, that in England would cost from 6*s.* to 8*s.*, may be purchased in Jersey at from 3*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* or 4*s.* 4*d.* The best

gunpowder tea costs 6*s.* 6*d.* Loaf sugar, such as would cost in London, 10*d.*, and in the country 11*d.*, may be bought in Jersey for 6*d.* Raw sugars are scarcely more than half their price in England. Coffee is not more than two-thirds of its price in England. Rice is 3*d.* per lb.; currants 4*d.*; raisins for puddings about the same. These are the articles of foreign and colonial produce the most in use; but in all others of less consumption, such as spices, oil, olives, dried fruits, &c., the price is proportionately low. In this large class of articles then,—the produce of foreign countries, which may now be almost all classed amongst the necessaries of life, Jersey has a decided advantage; and from this enumeration, we have a direct illustration of the effects of taxation, and of the extent to which it operates, in depressing the condition of a people.

But it yet remains, to notice that large class of taxed commodities, which are more properly termed luxuries; I mean, wines and spirit. In the low price of these, Jersey will compete with any place in the world: for although, in the wine countries, the superior wines may be drunk for next to nothing in the districts which produce them, Jersey has the command of all wines duty free; and consequently, the vintages of France, Spain, and Portugal, are all, proportionately low-priced. That there is much of bad wine in Jersey, is true; but so there is in England; and so there is, in the countries which produce wines. I have drunk vile Moselle at Luxembourg; villanous Hermitage on the Rhone; and wretched Sherry in Cadiz. But, to be more minute,—Port, from two to eight years old, and

of good quality, is from 22*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.* per dozen; and inferior Port may be purchased at 15*s.* Sherries are sold at the same price as Port. Bucellas is 14*s.* Excellent Marsala 12*s.* to 14*s.* Vidonia 20*s.* Mountain 20*s.* Tent 27*s.* 6*d.* East India Madeira 24*s.* Vin Ordinaire 6*s.* to 10*s.* Light Clarets from 20*s.* to 30*s.* First growths of best Clarets 45*s.* to 50*s.* Côte Rotie 45*s.* to 48*s.* St. George 12*s.* Burgundy,—Chambertin, 60*s.* Macon 25*s.* Vin de Grave, Barsac and Sauterne from 15*s.* to 25*s.* Champagne 50*s.* to 60*s.* Rhenish 17*s.* 6*d.* Hocks 40*s.* to 50*s.* All of these prices are stated in Jersey currency; consequently, 1*s.* 8*d.* must be deducted from every 1*l.*; and one of the chief wine houses, gives thirteen bottles to the dozen.

The catalogue of spirits is still more imposing. Cognac, such as is rarely to be met with in England, costs 7*s.* per gallon; hollands, from 3*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, to 1*s.* a bottle. Jamaica rum 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per bottle. Spirits, of inferior quality, but not inferior to what is usually retailed in England, may be had at greatly lower prices. One may therefore enjoy a glass of rum and water, sugar included, for one penny; and I am not sure that a few drops of lemon juice might not be squeezed into the bargain. A man may comfort himself with a pint of old Port for 11*d.*; or drain his bottle of St. George,—rather a racy wine, for the same money; or of Marsala,—better than it is found in England, for one shilling,

I have omitted in my enumeration, the important article of bread, the best quality of which, is sold at 2*d.* per pound; and common household bread of an excellent quality, costs 1½*d.*

There still remains to be noticed, one important item of expenditure,—house rent; and here, Jersey must suffer considerably, in comparison with England. A house, such as in most parts of England (of course excluding the metropolis, and the best situations in the large towns) would be let for 30*l.*, could not be got in Jersey for less than 40*l.*; and there are scarcely, in Jersey, any of those small, though comfortable cottages with gardens, which, in the cheaper and more remote English counties, are usually rented from 18*l.* to 25*l.* A comfortable, and respectable and moderate sized house, in a good situation, and with a little garden ground, cannot be had in Jersey under from 35*l.* to 40*l.* The rent of a house furnished, is generally nearly double the rent unfurnished. It must be recollected, however, that when rent is paid in Jersey, all is paid. There are no taxes, and scarcely any rates. This however is but a trifling advantage over the smaller description of houses in England, not situated in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, or any of the large towns: and in any comparison between Jersey and England, as places of residence, it is evident that the metropolis must be excluded; because, if expenses there, are greater, so are the *agremens;* and no one, whose object is economy, thinks of pitching upon the metropolis as his place of residence.

In one respect, Jersey has an advantage over any part of England, to those who mean to reside permanently in it, and to furnish a house. Furniture may be purchased greatly cheaper. Jersey-made furniture can of course be sold at a low rate comparatively with furniture made in England; since neither mahogany,

nor any other foreign timber pays any duty; and since also, labour is considerably cheaper. Other more ornamental articles of furniture, are also cheaper than in England, owing to the same causes,—such as mirrors, French papers, and metals.

Servants' wages are about the same in Jersey, as in England; and wearing apparel, is, generally speaking, dearer than in England.

I have now, I think, exhausted that important subject,—expense of living. But I have still something farther to say, on the advantages and disadvantages of Jersey, as a place of residence. The advantages yet to be enumerated, are indeed minor to that important one upon which I have enlarged: still, they must not be omitted. The most important of these, is climate; but, as this has already been spoken of, and will afterwards, in connexion with disease, receive a more lengthened notice, I at present only mention it, without enlarging upon it.

The geographical position of Jersey, may be named as an advantage. Situated as it is, within fifteen hours' sail of England, and within four or five hours' sail of France, it offers greater convenience for the resident, than any other resort with which I am acquainted. Letters put into the post-office in London, on Tuesday or Friday evening, are delivered in Jersey, on Thursday and Sunday morning. There are communications by steam, twice a week to Southampton, as well as to Weymouth; and still oftener to the French ports of St. Malo and Granville: so that excursions may be varied to different parts of England and France, to the Isle of Wight, and to Guernsey; and all, at a very moderate expense.

It is another advantage, that, in Jersey, one lives under the protection of the British government; though under the exclusive laws of Jersey. The revolutions, and civil commotions, which, in foreign countries, have driven hundreds from their adopted homes, and have even endangered their lives and their property, could never be more than matters of curiosity in Jersey; and few will deny, that the British government is a good government to live under, to those who can enjoy its blessings, exempt from the evils by which these are accompanied,—taxation, and wide-spread pauperism.

Such, is a summary of the advantages, which Jersey possesses as a residence.

The chief disadvantage, under which Jersey lies, is the total want of amusements. There are no field-sports; there is no angling. There is a theatre indeed; and there are winter assemblies: but the latter are few in number; and not particularly attractive; and as for the former, there is so little encouragement given to the drama in Jersey, that the company is most commonly indifferent. The native inhabitants do not sufficiently understand the English language, to relish English drama; and the residents are not rich enough to afford of themselves, sufficient encouragement to the theatre. It must also be admitted, that naval and military men, are not those amongst whom a taste for the drama is most likely to be found. Companies of French actors, however, are tolerably well supported by the native inhabitants.

Of good music, there is even a still greater dearth. The native inhabitants do not encourage music; and

the residents have come to Jersey to economize. They prefer spending their surplus income in seeing their friends at home and abroad,—and in country parties, rather than in frequenting public amusements. The consequence is, that with the lack of musical taste, and the necessity for economy, concerts fare ill in Jersey. Fashion perhaps may fill a room once; but I question if Pasta and Malibran together, could twice collect 70*l.* in Jersey. The residents cannot be blamed for not doing that, which they did not come to Jersey to do; and the details of a former chapter, will have sufficiently accounted for the want of interest in, and love of the fine arts, shewn by the native inhabitants. Attempts have been made to concentrate the musical talent of the island, in a club; but like everything else in Jersey, which requires co-operation and public spirit, the attempt has been crowned with very indifferent success.

I ought to have mentioned, that the disposition towards puritanism, which I have already said, is prevalent in Jersey, is inimical to the success of theatrical entertainments,—and in some degree to all public amusements. Horse races, which have been instituted these two or three years, are of course, particularly obnoxious to the religious classes; and their success has only been moderate.

I think I have stated tolerably fairly, the advantages and disadvantages of Jersey, as a residence; and I shall conclude this chapter with a brief comparison between Jersey in this respect, and the principal resorts of the English on the Continent.

In point of expense, Jersey differs very little from

most of these. Foreign and colonial produce is dearer on all parts of the Continent; but on the other hand, house rent is higher in Jersey, than in any place on the Continent frequented by the English,—excepting Tours. In the smaller English resorts,—petty towns and villages, for example, on the coast of Normandy and Brittany,—all the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life, are greatly cheaper than they are in Jersey. But except cheapness, these spots have nothing to recommend them.

As for *agremens*, there is no doubt that all the large cities resorted to by the English, have a great advantage over Jersey; and in the state of society also, they will more than bear comparison with it. The theatres, promenades, the spectacles, the galleries, of Paris, Florence, or even Brussels, offer resources, which may be sought for in vain in Jersey. Jersey does not lie under any disadvantage in comparison with the smaller resorts. It is true that the monotony of Pau, may be broken by an excursion to Bagnères de Bigorre, which all the world has heard of,—or to the village of Beiretz, in the bay of Biscay, which very few have heard of,—but which is nevertheless one of the most charming, and coolest of retreats: and the beautiful tranquillity of Lausanne may be interrupted by a ramble among the Swiss mountains, or an excursion on Lake Leman: but these resources are as expensive, and not so full of variety as those which Jersey offers, in excursions to London, and Paris: and in Jersey, there is greater room for selection in society, than in those places where the more limited number of residents, scarcely admits of different

circles,—or indeed, of choice. The English society of Jersey, is not indeed, altogether unexceptionable; nor is it equal, in either polish, or intellect, to an equally large circle in England: but good breeding, and gentlemanly feeling, are always to be found among those whose profession has been arms: and among the hundreds of residents in Jersey, there is no difficulty in falling into a circle from which the exceptionable are excluded.

In point of climate, Jersey takes a medium rank: I do not speak of it, as a resort of invalids; but of those who merely desire fine weather, and neither an excess of heat or cold. Paris, Caen, Tours, Paw, Lausanne, are hotter in summer, and colder in winter, than Jersey. Brussels, and Boulogne *sur mer*, are every way inferior to it in climate. Florence, Nice, and Pisa, have superior winters; but are too hot in summer: so that Jersey does not appear to suffer by a comparison.

But there is one advantage which Jersey possesses, over all continental places. It is more English. English comfort is better understood in it. English ways, more common. Houses are English in their structure and conveniences: one can have closed shutters, a snug room, and a coal fire. Above all, the English language, although not the language of the island, is sufficiently understood to make the use of a foreign language unnecessary. And let me add, that however many years, an Englishman remains abroad, he never conquers the desire to return to his native country. He cannot endure for ever, the feeling that he is a foreigner; and the consciousness, that he must

lay his bones in a foreign land. The murmur of English voices comes to his ear; he recalls the appearance of an English town, an English population, and the aspect of an English landscape; and while fancy places before him, the village, and the village church, and the churchyard,—with its many tombs, and tall sheltering trees,—he feels, that he would rather be buried there; and that his own countrymen might pause before his tomb, and English children play and prattle upon his grave. Yes,—let his sojourn be beautiful as it may, he feels that he is a stranger; and that not in life only, but in death also, he has a home —a home in his native land. But these feelings are scarcely experienced in Jersey. There is little to remind an Englishman of his absence from his country. He scarcely feels himself a stranger: and is therefore spared that restlessness which would infallibly come upon him, sooner or later, in a foreign land.

CHAPTER VIII.

Civil Government—The Court of Judicature and its Constitution —Election of Judges—Party Spirit and its Results—The States, or Legislative Body, and its Constitution—The Governor and his Emoluments — The Lieutenant-Governor — The Island Militia—Value of Jersey—Finance—The Clergy—Education and Public Institutions—The State of the Public Press in Jersey.

It will have been gathered from the contents of a former chapter, that the inhabitants of Jersey regard their political constitution with no small affection; and

indeed, so true is this, that reform and change, are as unpopular words in Jersey, as they are popular elsewhere. So slow is the march of opinion in Jersey, that the political constitution which pleased the islanders in the days of King John, pleases them still; and, as regards the mass of the people, there is yet no dawn of that crisis, which must ever arrive, where intellect advances, and political institutions stand still.

I shall briefly state what is the constitution of Jersey; in the hope, that by making its evils and absurdities more generally known, one step may be made towards amendment.

The legislative power in Jersey, resides in an assembly called the States; but in order to understand the constitution of this assembly, it is necessary that I should speak first of the judicial body.

The Royal Court, as it is called, consists of a president, termed the bailly of Jersey, who is appointed by the king; and twelve judges, who are elected for life, by the people,—all heads of families, paying parochial rates, being entitled to vote; so that, in fact, the judges are elected by almost universal suffrage. This privilege of electing their judges, the people esteem as their highest privilege; but it is easy to perceive, that it is on the contrary, the source of incalculable evil. I have already mentioned the existence of party spirit in the island; and at no time does party run so high, as at the election of a judge. Upon these occasions, the whole island is in a ferment: to vote, is to stamp a man of one party or another: I have known respectable tradesmen, who so feared the consequences of a vote, that they invented some

pretext for leaving the island; and I have known others swallow medicine, to make themselves incapable of attending, to give their suffrage. Firing of guns, waving of banners, and all the loudest and most unequivocal expressions of triumph, attend the result of an election; and in fact, the judge is borne into the seat of justice on the shoulders of a party.

It is scarcely necessary I think, for me to enlarge upon the bad effects of this system. The bench, with one or two exceptions, is composed of the most furious partizans; the court of justice is too often the arena for party feuds; and it is not impossible by glancing the eye along the bench, and knowing who are the parties to a suit, to guess with tolerable accuracy what will be the issue.

But this is not the only evil of the system. No qualification is necessary for being elected to the office of judge. A farmer, a ship owner, a merchant,—any body, may be seated on the bench by the electors. No previous acquaintance with law or usage is required; no preparatory education,—no education of any kind requisite. The electors, generally utterly uneducated themselves,—and influenced by the most violent party spirit, cannot be expected to fix upon the best qualified individuals; and thus, the bench is alike disqualified by party feeling, and by ignorance, from exercising that sound and unbiassed judgment, which alone gives respectability to a court of justice.

It may perhaps be altogether doubted, whether in so small a community as Jersey, where relationship, or connexion of one kind or other, is so universal, Jerseymen be the most proper persons to fill the

judicial office: but it is at all events certain, that so long as the right of electing the judges is vested in the people, not only will the bench be defective in all that constitutes a perfect judicature; but party spirit will be encouraged,—which, at the same time that it poisons the fountains of justice,—crushes public spirit, —cripples legislation,—and offers an impassable obstacle to the progress of civilization.

I have no intention of enlarging on the jurisdiction of the Royal Court. It has the power of disposing of all cases civil and criminal, including the military code as regards the militia; and from the full court, an appeal lies to the Privy Council. In criminal cases, juries decide; and the accused has many advantages. He is allowed counsel; and from the petty jury which first sits on his case, and which decides by a majority of voices, he has an appeal to a grand jury, consisting of twenty-four; of which number, five voices only, are sufficient to acquit him of the charge.

The jury in civil causes, has not yet made its way to Jersey; and for the same reason that I doubt the possibility of perfect impartiality among judges selected from so limited a community, where intermarriages are so common, where no man is a stranger to another, and where the attachments to party are so strong, and so universal,—I also doubt, whether the introduction of juries in civil causes, would be productive of much advantage. Should the administration of justice ever be vested in English judges, I have no hesitation in saying, that the introduction of Jersey juries would be impolitic. The same objections which apply to juries in civil causes, is not

applicable to criminal cases. In these latter, men are less likely to be influenced by private motives; or if they be, the accused will most probably be a gainer: and besides, it very rarely happens, that Jerseymen are the subjects of criminal prosecutions. Delinquencies are almost always committed by strangers.

Attached to the royal court, are the two king's officers,—the procureur du roi, and the king's advocate, who are appointed by the king; several other officers, and six advocates, who are in the nomination of the bailly,—an absurd and unjust nomination, both as regards the public service, and the manner of appointment. There ought to be no restriction upon the bar, excepting that which depends upon competency; and yet, in this important particular, there is at present no regulation. No course of education is necessary; no examination is required; all is left to the judgment of the bailly,—who, possessed of such powers, and presiding over a court composed of men without legal education, ought to be a man possessed of many acquirements; and distinguished by a sound and discriminating judgment. It is but just to add, that there are some gentlemen now at the bar, distinguished for their acquirements; and every way competent to the discharge of their duties.

An enumeration of the laws of Jersey, does not come within the scope of this work; though in an appendix, I have thought it necessary to present a brief abstract of the laws, chiefly as they affect, or may be interesting to English residents. I may merely state here, that the laws of Jersey are founded on the ancient Norman code; and are swelled by

municipal and local usages; by royal ordinances; acts of the States, confirmed by the king; and by orders in council, registered in the island.

I am now prepared to speak of the constitution of the States.

The legislative body, is composed of thirty-six members, besides the governor and the bailly, consisting of:—1. The twelve judges, who being judges for life, are legislators for life. 2. The rectors of the twelve parishes, nominated (with the exception of the dean) by the governor, also legislators for life. 3. The twelve constables of the twelve parishes, elected by the people triennially. The king's officers and the viscomte, have also seats in the States; and may speak, but cannot vote.

It is scarcely possible to conceive a more faulty constitution of a legislative assembly than this. Here we have men framing laws, and executing them,—judges to day, legislators to-morrow: here we have a legislative body, which is not a representative assembly —nor a responsible assembly; since one-third of the number, the clergy, are nominated by the governor: and since two-thirds—both the twelve judges and the twelve clergy, are legislators for life, and are therefore never called upon to account for their stewardship. Only one-third part of the legislative assembly is representative and responsible:—viz. the twelve constables, who are chosen triennially in each parish, by the same electors who choose the jurats; and who are in fact the heads of the police of each parish, and have under them, sundry inferior officers and deputies. The States possess the powers (under certain limita-

tions) which belong to any legislative body. They originate and pass laws; raise funds for the public service; enact appropriations of the revenue; and preside generally, over the well-being of the island. This assembly, however, cannot be convened without the assent of the governor,—who has also a veto on its deliberations, for the exercise of which powers, however, he is accountable to the king in council; and all acts passed by the States, if meant to continue in force more than three years, require the king's assent.

The government of Jersey, is, as the reader probably knows, a sinecure office, at present held by Lord Beresford; and which, I believe I am warranted in believing, will not much longer be suffered to exist. The whole crown revenue of the island is, with certain deductions, appropriated to the governor, and consists of the corn tithes of ten of the parishes.

As the disposal of this revenue has lately been brought under notice, by a parliamentary commission, I will briefly state its amount, and deductions. The tables before me, have reference to the revenue received and appropriated, of 1818, since which year, the amount has decreased about 300*l.*

Amount of Wheat, Rye, Beans, Barley and Oat rents	£711	11	6½
Tithes	1414	11	6
Lands	446	7	5½
Fines	57	14	4½
Money Rents	32	7	4½
Tavern Licences	13	15	0
Successions	75	15	11½
Renunciations	88	12	4½
	£2840	15	7

This amount was appropriated as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Salary of the Bailiff - - - - - -	300	0	0
„ of the King's Procureur - - - -	100	0	0
„ of the King's Advocate - - - -	50	0	0
„ of the Greffier of the Royal Court - -	45	0	0
„ of the Vicompte - - - - -	100	0	0
„ of the Officers of the Lower Fief Courts -	23	7	7
„ of His Majesty's two Receivers - -	300	0	0
„ of the Keeper of the Court House - -	15	0	0
Annual subscription of the Governor for prizes for boys in the Militia - - - - -	20	0	0
Maintenance of Gaol Prisoners, and Gaol account	206	0	0
Repairs to the Court House - - - -	69	5	6
Coroner's Inquests - - - - - -	21	0	0
Governor's Subscription to the Public School -	10	10	0
Dinners to the Court of Heritage - - -	99	11	7
Do. to the Inspectors of Roads - - -	34	9	9½
Rents due by the King - - - - -	8	19	3
Covering and repairing the Governor's Pew -	8	18	6
Amount transmitted to the Governor - - -	1428	13	4½
	£2840	15	7

It is evident that the charges upon the crown revenue will vary from year to year. The amount of the revenue also varies. The tithes will fluctuate according to the value of wheat, and the quantity sown. The governor has also the king's share of all contraband and prohibited goods, and of all fines levied in consequence; and on seizures of tea, he receives two-thirds of the value, after deducting the expenses. In the year to which the table I have given refers, there does not appear to have been any seizures. In a subsequent year (1828) I see the sum of 119*l.* for seizures.

In the proposed abolition of the sinecure to which

the surplus crown revenue is appropriated, would it not be advisable for the government to draw in the first instance, the whole crown revenue of the island; and take upon itself the payment of the salaries, and other charges? There is little that could be deducted from these items, unless it be the dinners, and the repairs to the court house,—the latter of which might be paid from the island revenue or "impôt,"—a small tax on the import of wines and spirits, of which I shall afterwards speak.

At present, and for some considerable time past, the duties of the governor have been vested in a lieutenant-governor, who is named by the king. Although, as the representative of the British government,—and in some degree of the king, this officer possesses certain civil powers, such as having a negative voice in the States, and acting in some emergencies, for the king's government, his office is chiefly a military one; and consists in commanding the whole troops both regular and militia in the island, and in exercising the usual authority and privileges vested in a commander in chief.

The lieutenant-governor receives a small portion of crown revenue, different from, and not included in, that drawn by the governor. Some items of this revenue are curious, and illustrate well, the rapacity of the priests in former times. He is entitled to 197 capons; 263 fowls; 217 chickens; 33 geese; 684 eggs; 97 loaves of bread, and 2 hares. These are apportioned among the different parishes, and may either be paid in kind, or in money: when compounded for, a capon is charged at 2*s.* 1*d.*; a fowl at 1*s.* 3*d.*; two

chickens, at 1*s.* 3*d.*; a goose at 1*s.* 10½*d.*; eggs at 7½*d.* per dozen; a loaf of bread at 1¼*d.*; 2 hares at 1*s.* 3*d.* The whole amounts to about 48*l.* Besides these, the lieutenant-governor is entitled to the rent of some houses, of a grass meadow, of the king's warren, and to an allowance for signing the registers of vessels, and for passes to vessels for clearing outwards. These altogether, supposing the houses and lands let, do not much exceed 160*l.*

The differences, which have unhappily arisen from time to time in the island, between the lieutenant-governor and the legislative assembly, seem to shew that the powers of the lieutenant-governor, are not sufficiently defined; and indeed, lead to the conclusion that military men are not the best individuals to fill offices, the duties of which are partly civil; and that in the government of a colony or dependency, it would perhaps be wise, to separate altogether, the military, from the civil authority. With regard to Jersey, its government requires peculiar tact and delicacy; both because of the peculiar privileges enjoyed, and so highly rated by the inhabitants; and because of the importance of attaching the inhabitants to the English government, so long as its possession be considered a matter of importance; and since also, in war time, the safety of the island depends, in some degree, upon the fidelity and efficiency of the island militia. A governor of Jersey, ought to be extremely careful how he jostles with island privileges; and even in exercising his military government, mildness, and caution, are greatly to be commended. Some little deficiencies in these, have led to misunderstandings, which have risen

into deadly feuds. The militia too, is not so popular a service as it once was; and in consequence of a somewhat rigid discipline,—and some perhaps unnecessary severities, a pretty general feeling has been engendered, by no means favourable to the system which government professes to be desirous of encouraging.

There is no doubt however, that the position of a resident governor in Jersey, is a difficult position. There is so much jealousy of privileges, and so bitter a spirit of faction, that no governor, did he possess even the virtues of a Titus, with the wisdom of a Solomon, could hope to please all parties.

I have mentioned the militia of the island. This is a large and efficient force, in which all persons between the ages of 17 and 65 are liable to serve. The regiments are six in number; and muster, with the artillery, which consists of twenty-four light six-pounders, about 2500 men. They are in an excellent state of discipline; are greatly attached to their island officers; and have proved themselves, in actual service, worthy of being entrusted with the defence of the island.

The expense to the British government, of maintaining this force, is considerable: and I think, that without injuring its efficiency, the British government might be relieved from this expense. The whole sum paid to inspectors, assistant inspectors, and drill sergeants, amounts to a very considerable sum; and there appears to be no sufficient reason why the large island revenue should not be charged with this burden. Nor is this the only burden which might either be shifted, or altogether removed.

But I may perhaps be permitted to doubt, whether the mode usually adopted for ascertaining the possibility of making reductions, be the best that could be adopted. A lieutenant governor of a colony is requested to make a return of his own emoluments; and, as an example that no dependence can be placed upon such returns, the returns of such emoluments, transmitted by the present lieutenant governors of Jersey and Guernsey, were entirely different, though their emoluments arise from precisely similar sources. I do not mean to impugn the integrity of either: but the returns made by them individually, were framed according to the understanding which each had, of what government required of him. When a similar return was required from Sir Colin Halkett, a late lieutenant governor of Jersey, he returned simply 10*s.* 6*d.* per day,—his allowance as governor,—making no mention of staff or military allowances of any description.

Nor is it perhaps to be expected, that governors of colonies, when requested to state what reductions may be made in their government, will be guided in their answers, solely by a regard for the public purse: the more offices, the more patronage; and there is also a feeling of delicacy, which cannot but be felt, in recommending the abolition of offices held by those who are probably upon terms of friendship with the governor. I need scarcely say, that in these general observations upon the subject of reductions, I have Guernsey, as well as Jersey in view.

But let us for a moment, since we are upon the subject of expenditure, inquire very briefly into the value of the Channel Islands, as British possessions.

It has been calculated, and I have reason to know that the calculation is a correct one, that during war, the expense of the British government, of maintaining the military establishments in Jersey alone, nearly reached half a million per annum. This enormous sum arises from the pay of a large body of troops, the wear and tear of warlike instruments, and the enormous price of provisions, defrayed by government: and it is perhaps a question worth putting, whether the advantages resulting to England from the possession of these islands, be worth the cost of maintaining a large additional force for their protection. The ground, upon which the value of these islands to Britain, is commonly based, appears to me an unsound one. It is commonly said, that if in the hands of the enemy, the trade of the Channel would be placed in peril; and this conclusion is not an unnatural one to be at first sight taken up, when we recollect the number of privateers belonging to these islands in the early part of the last war; and the great loss sustained by the enemy, in consequence of them. But it ought to be recollected, that the introduction of steam, has since then, materially affected the question. A steam frigate or two (especially if a breakwater were constructed in Portland roads), could keep the Channel free of sailing privateers; for it may fairly be concluded, that the islands would own none but sailing vessels, owing to the enormous expense which would attend the fitting out of steam vessels as privateers. And besides, why should the islands of the Channel be objects of so much alarm, since Cherbourg, now a great naval station, is quite as advantageously

situated for annoying the trade of the Channel, as Jersey or Guernsey.

If the only question therefore were, whether nearly a million of money per annum be well spent in maintaining the Channel Islands, for the sake of protecting the Channel trade, the answer would certainly be in the negative. As for the other question which might be raised,—whether the honour of retaining as appendages to the British crown, islands, whose sovereignty is as old as the Norman Conquest; and which from their proximity to France, seem naturally to belong to her, be worth a million per annum,—it is too nice a question for me to decide.

Having had frequent occasion to mention the revenue of the island, I shall be pardoned for exhibiting a brief view of its present financial condition. The revenue of Jersey arises from the duty on the importation of wines and spirits,—from harbour dues,—and from licenses granted to publicans. The average of the first of these, for three years, ending with December 1833, was no less than 10,425*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, and the addition of publicans' licenses, and harbour dues, amounting, with other small items of revenue, to 3732*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, makes the whole revenue 14,158*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*

From this sum there is to be deducted, the interests of the public debt. The total debt of the island amounted, at 1st January 1834, to 61,652*l.* 5*s.* 4$d\frac{1}{2}$., the interest on which, at four per cent, 2483*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*, being deducted from the revenue, leaves a disposable income of 11,675*l.*

These facts are somewhat curious: and lead to the

inevitable conclusion, that extraordinary mismanagement only, could have produced so extraordinary a result: for considering, that large aid has been received from England, in the construction of defences; that the revenue is not charged with the salaries of the public officers, who are all paid from the crown revenue; and that no part of the expense of maintaining and clothing the militia, falls upon the island, one would rather expect to find a large accumulation of revenue, than an increasing debt. No doubt some expensive public works have been undertaken, and completed; but now that no large calls upon the revenue are likely to be made, there seems to be ground for believing, that it is amply sufficient not only for the ordinary local demands upon it, but that it may be fairly charged with the support of the island militia, and with the salaries of the different public officers.

The state of the church, and the institutions in some degree connected with it, call for a few words. The dean of Jersey, who is named by the crown, is at the head of the insular church; and holds a spiritual court, from which there is an appeal to the see of Winchester. The dean is always one of the twelve rectors; but no pluralities are admitted. The clergy of Jersey, are poorly paid; they are entitled to little more than the small tithes,—which do not average to each, above 120*l.* per annum. It would undoubtedly have been more just, if a part of the great tithes, which belong to the crown, had been appropriated to a reasonable augmentation of livings, rather than to the payment of a salary to a sinecurist; and since this

bad appropriation of the crown revenue appears to be destined for change, by the retrenching spirit of the times, it is to be hoped, that the claims of the underpaid clergy will not be forgotten. It is possible that these claims may not be advanced; but at a time when there is a disposition to afford something like adequate remuneration to the working clergy of England —and all the incumbents in Jersey, are working clergy—it is almost to be expected, that when a large sum is about to be released from the grasp of a sinecurist, a part of it may be appropriated towards the moderate augmentation of the miserable livings in Jersey.

It is much to be regretted, that by the constitution of the island, the clergy have seats in the legislature. I do not, at present, speak of this as a political flaw in the constitution; but only, as it affects the usefulness of the clergy, which necessarily depends greatly, upon their moral influence over their respective flocks. In an island such as Jersey, where subjects of local interest are every day springing up, great diversity of opinion must continually exist, as to the course most proper to be pursued by the legislature, in the various matters brought before it; and thus the clergy are necessarily brought into ill odour with a part of their parishioners. It is impossible, that men who have witnessed (or think they have witnessed) the fallibility of their pastor's judgment in temporal matters, should trustingly confide to him their eternal interests.

Such is a slight outline of the civil, military, and ecclesiastical government of Jersey,—forming alto-

gether, a constitution to which there is the blindest attachment on the part of the great majority of the people, who, if any change be proposed, immediately exclaim, "See how our island has flourished!" The flourishing condition of the island, is not, however, owing to the privileges, which are so much valued by the people, and which may be termed political privileges, but is owing to its great commercial privileges: when I come to speak of the commerce of the island, these will be enumerated and explained; meanwhile I would only observe, that it is these commercial privileges which have filled its harbour with shipping, and extended its commerce over the world; these which confer upon it the advantage it possesses over other spots, in commanding at a lower price, the luxuries, and many of the necessaries of life. This in conjunction with the absence of taxation, is the attraction which has drawn some thousands of English residents to its shores; this it is, which has covered the environs of the town with villas, and formed new streets, and opened shops, and raised the value of property, and in fact, made Jersey what it is.

The privileges of Jersey, are great and invaluable —impossible to be enjoyed without producing important benefits upon the people who enjoy them. Here, the tax-gatherer's knock is unknown: here, a year's poor-rates are paid by a wealthy man, with a sum that would not furnish him with a dinner in England: here, if we say to a shopkeeper, "the article is dear," we are not answered, "It is owing to the high duty, Sir; I get nothing by it:" here a man may sit down to a well-spread table covered with foreign,

colonial, and British produce and manufacture, and see not one article for which he has paid any thing beyond the price of produce and labour, and the trader's profit. But these privileges are necessary to the prosperity of Jersey. Without them, its population would dwindle away; trade would languish, and property fall in value; and thus depopulated, moneyless, and nerveless, the island would fall a prey to France, on the outbreaking of a war—an event, which if it be the policy of England to avert, can be averted only by protecting the privileges of Jersey, though guarding against the abuse of them; and thus encouraging the prosperity, and consequently, the patriotism and loyalty of those who enjoy them.

Besides the important, and real privileges which I have mentioned, Jersey possesses others, highly esteemed by those who exercise them—none of them however, of any real value, and one, directly prejudicial to the welfare of the island. This, the right of electing their own judges, I have already spoken of. The other political privileges consist in being governed by their own legislature; the inoperativeness of all writs from British courts of judicature; freedom from the effects of acts of parliament; exemption from the impress service; and some other privileges, which are either too trifling to notice, or which are not now recognized. These contribute nothing to the prosperity of Jersey; and, with the exception of freedom from the impress service, nothing towards the happiness of the people. Many of them are, besides, imaginary. An act of parliament, backed by an order in council, may extend to Jersey; the refusal of the

royal sanction makes nugatory the acts of island legislation; and it were absurd for a moment to suppose, that the parliament of Britain does not legislate for the benefit of the whole empire. For the preservation of all its truly valuable privileges, Jersey is indebted to the interest of the empire at large. Whether or not it would be well, that the habeas corpus act should be made to extend to this island, let the following fact testify. It is but lately, that a girl was imprisoned, charged with some inconsiderable offence by the authority of some police officer. She remained in prison nine months; at the end of which time, upon the representation of one of his majesty's receivers general (for be it recollected that the maintenance of prisoners forms a deduction from the king's revenue) the girl was brought up for trial, or rather for accusation. There was no accuser,—no charge; the cause even of her imprisonment was unknown; and she was discharged.

A thorough and radical change in the civil constitution of the island, is essential to the happiness of the people of Jersey. So long as the present mode of constituting the bench be maintained, the spirit of faction will continue to exercise its despotism: and ignorance, and partiality will impede the course of justice. From the island legislature, nothing is to be hoped: it is in vain to imagine, that the twelve judges, and the twelve rectors, will accede to any proposition for excluding themselves from the legislative body. But indeed, it is much to be doubted, whether a legislature, however formed, would be found an efficient one; for there is no reason to believe,

that at present, the island population offers thirty-six individuals competent for the office.

At a time when the education of the people, forms so prominent a feature in all systems of national improvement, it is necessary that I should bestow a few words on the means of intellectual improvement in Jersey.

There are two endowments for free schools in the island; both in the country parishes,—one, called St. Anastase; the other St. Manelier. These were founded in the reign of Henry VII., who granted a charter to the endowers. The property attached to these chartered schools, is extremely small, and altogether inadequate to carry into effect the intention of the founders. The nomination of the masters, lies with the dean, and the rectors of the twelve parishes; and the schools are, or rather were, intended to be free to all,—the inhabitants of the eastern and of the western half of the island having respectively the right of sending their children to the two schools. Little good, however, has resulted from these foundations: the allowances were too small to secure the exertions of competent masters; and it has happened, that for a considerable period, the whole revenue has been swallowed up in repairs to the buildings. Such has been long the case with the school of St. Anastase, which does not at present boast of a single scholar; and till lately, when the school of St. Manelier was put upon a somewhat better footing, twenty was the greatest number of pupils known to attend. Since the appointment of the present master, the number has increased to about forty; but the establishment

still languishes. The States of the island ought to vote a part of the island revenue in aid of this institution: their funds are frittered away in ill-devised works, generally so clumsily executed, that the necessity for continued repairs, keeps up a constant drain on the revenue; and prevents their application to works of greater utility.

In the town of St. Helier, there is a national school on Bell's system, for the youth of both sexes, who are instructed gratis, in the common branches of education. This school is supported by subscriptions and donations; and there is also a fund, from which clothes are provided; and which are presented as prizes. The school may be said to be in a flourishing condition; and it is believed by those who have had the best opportunity of judging, to have been very instrumental in improving the intellectual and moral condition of the lower orders.

The "seminaries," as they are called, in the town and neighbourhood of St. Helier, are sufficiently numerous; there are, I believe, between twenty and thirty of such "establishments;" and although I readily admit, that among the conductors of these, there are some fitted for the task of instruction, they are of course trading speculations, and offer no guarantee, such as that, which under an improved system of national instruction, ought to be provided.

With respect to the state of education throughout the island, I should say, that instruction is very general; and indeed in the country, among the native inhabitants, scarcely any child is to be found who is not at school. In some of the parishes there are

slenderly endowed schools; in others they have no endowments: but in no parish is there any want of schools for instruction in French, English, and arithmetic. Sunday schools also, are sufficiently provided; but their efficiency is considerably impaired by the exclusive adoption of the catechism of the episcopal church. I have frequently walked into the country schools; and have always found the masters painstaking, and tolerably intelligent.

There is also an endowment of about 76*l.* per annum, for aiding students in their studies in the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Jersey has many institutions and societies, for the amelioration of man's moral and physical condition. The chief of these institutions, is the hospital, so called,—but which would more properly be denominated poor-house,—since there is no general medical establishment attached to it. This institution is very inferior in its internal management to the same institution in Guernsey, of which I shall afterwards have occasion to speak. It contains no educational department; no teaching of trades to the young; no perfect separation of sexes; and in its general arrangement, is miserably defective, both as regards the physical and moral condition of those who are its inmates.

And worse than all this, the subsistence of the poor is farmed out to an individual, whose gain arises from the difference between the expense of feeding those committed to his charge, and the sum he is allowed by the States for that purpose; a system, which I need scarcely characterise, as utterly unworthy of the age. Even the remuneration of the medical attend-

ant, is on the same bad principle: he has no fixed salary; but is paid merely by the quantity of physic which he administers. I by no means intend any reflections upon the individuals who are so circumstanced. The medical officer I know to be incapable of any but the most honourable conduct; nor do I know anything to the disadvantage of the individual to whom the poor are farmed; but these are temptations that ought not to be presented to any man; and no establishment should be conducted on such a system, that the interests of those in the management, is placed in direct opposition to the objects of the institution.

But in Jersey, the curse of party spirit is upon every thing,—throwing a chill, even upon the best emotions, and paralysing the exertions of the philanthropist: for the most noble project that ever was ripened by wisdom and humanity, would be blighted in Jersey, by the indifference, if not by the open hostility of the party with whom it did not originate.

Jersey has also many private benevolent institutions; comprehending both the physical and religious wants of the inhabitants,—among others, a provident society,—and two infant schools,—all of these recently established; but all of them, upon the whole, prosperous, and most deserving of being so; both on account of the objects which they entertain, and of the zealous and excellent management under which they are placed. I must not omit to mention, that a savings' bank is about to be established both in Jersey and Guernsey, in consequence of an order in council recently transmitted to the islands; and that the legis-

lature was lately engaged in discussing the curious question, whether the security of the British government, or of the States of Jersey be the better!!!

I shall conclude this chapter with a few words on the state of the public press, in Jersey. Few communities so limited as Jersey, possess so many public journals; and yet, I question if there be a community in any free country, so little influenced by the public press. The reason of this is, that the number of those who dare to think for themselves, is extremely limited: with few exceptions, the journals are the organs of one or other of the two parties; and so fearful are they of giving offence to the party which patronizes them, that nothing like freedom of sentiment is ever found in their columns. I at present allude more particularly to the French papers; for these being chiefly read by the country people, are the only journals, which under worthy management, might exercise any important influence over the public mind. Without exception, these are the furious organs of party; and are conducted with apparently the sole view of pleasing certain partizans. The acrimony, invective, and personal abuse, which figure in their columns, extremely surprise a stranger who has been accustomed to the more gentlemanly tone of the English press; and certainly reflect no great credit upon the taste of the public, who are not only satisfied, but delighted with this manner of writing; and who, with few exceptions, look upon the most powerful and most nervous writing, as tame, if it be not seasoned with personality. There is indeed one excuse for this depraved appetite on the part of the public: it is, that both in the legislative

body, and in the courts of justice, an example is set. The harangues in the "States" are too frequently a tissue of personalities; such, as in no well regulated assembly, would be for a moment endured: and even in court, allusions are made to the judges on the bench, and a virulence of language permitted, very unusual in such places. Nothing, by the by, can be a better illustration of the indifference of the natives of Jersey, towards all that lies beyond their little world, than the contents of the French local papers. These are small sheets, like the smallest of the French papers, sold at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$: one and half, or two, of these small pages, is filled with island news,—the proceedings of the States, —the pleadings of the Court,—parish meetings,—and original articles, or letters, upon local politics. The most scanty space imaginable, is made to suffice for the world at large. The most important debates in the British parliament, are despatched in a paragraph; and the foreign intelligence of Europe, is evidently a matter of very minor consideration. As for British domestic intelligence, there is no department for it. I recollect observing, that no mention was made in one of the most read journals, of the death of the king of Spain,—at that time, from many causes, an event of great political interest. Several of these journals enjoy a large circulation, and all of them are conducted with a fair portion of talent, though unhappily made subservient to the narrow views of party.

There are also, six English newspapers in Jersey, which are read by the educated classes of the natives, and of course, also, by the British residents. In these journals, whose contents are of the miscellaneous

character which distinguishes the English newspapers, British and foreign intelligence, and Jersey matters, are about equally prominent; and some of these, are, like their French cotemporaries, devoted to party.

The influence of the English journals also, is limited; not so exclusively the slaves of party as the French papers, their influence on the public mind is perhaps somewhat greater; and in matters which concern the British residents, they are powerful engines. In an attempt which was made in the States, to tax for the benefit of the island, the property of British residents, though situated out of Jersey, the strenuous opposition of the "British Press," and the exhibition of feeling manifested in consequence amongst the English, compelled the proposer of the law to withdraw it.

Almost every grown-up person, man or woman, reads one or other of the Jersey newspapers. On Saturday morning, when three of the French papers are published, one of them is seen in every market person's hand, or lying on almost every market stall. The fish-woman, the firuit-woman, the butter-woman, has each her newspaper; and lays in for the week, a stock of knowledge as to the affairs of Jersey. The circulation of the island papers, is very considerable. There being no stamps, their price is extremely low; and the absence of duty also on advertisements, increases the number of these, and consequently gives to the newspaper another attraction. I scarcely think any district will be found in Britain, containing a population of no more than 40,000 inhabitants, in which eleven newspapers are published.

CHAPTER IX.

AGRICULTURE IN JERSEY.

Backward State of Agriculture, and its Causes—High Rent in Jersey—Value of Land—Advance of Tillage—General Husbandry—Wheat Harvest—The Reaping Field—Return from Land—Odd Customs—Multifarious Uses of Parsnips—Potato Land—Joint-stock Labour, and Stock—Orchards, and Manufacture of Cider—Vraic, or Sea-weed, as Manure—Wages of Labour—Cattle of Jersey—The Jersey Cow, and her Privileges—The Dairy—Sheep, and Horses—The Agricultural Society.

THE state of agriculture in Jersey, is backward; and substantial reasons may be assigned for this; the most prominent of which, perhaps is the minute division of property. The law of gavelkind, which obtains in this island, necessarily occasions a minute division of property; so much so that it not unfrequently happens, that at the end of two generations, the eldest son is left without sufficient land to maintain himself, or to keep up his paternal house. Not only do we find in Jersey, half a dozen fields belonging perhaps to half a dozen persons, but sometimes even the same field owning two or more proprietors. In this case, the field is sown with different kinds of grain; and each proprietor speaks of his "*camp de grain.*"

That this minute division of property, and the law which produces it, should lead to a backward state of agriculture, must be at once apparent. There is little

spur to exertion, and limited means of improvement. An individual left with an inheritance of only three or four vergées of land, is rarely in a condition to purchase the proper manure necessary to ensure a good crop; and even where farms of from ten to twenty vergées, are possessed by persons destitute of capital, little in the way of improvement can be expected. The English "*ferme ornée*," is unknown in Jersey; for no man in his senses would dream of putting a ring fence round his property; or of beautifying, planting, and laying out his grounds, when he knows, that by the existing law, the "ferme ornée" might probably be broken up and subdivided at his death. Quail, in his report on the agriculture of these islands, mentions another obstacle to improvement, in the want of labourers. But the difficulty of obtaining labourers, was only felt during the war; a sufficiency of French and English labourers may now be commanded, whose wages vary from 10*d.* to 2*s.* per day. The latter wages are generally paid for the most efficient English labourers.

An English farmer who finds that he can scarcely obtain a livelihood, when paying 25*s.* per acre, would feel no small surprise, when told that the best land in the country parishes in Jersey, lets (when let at all) at 2*l.* 10*s.* per vergée, which is equivalent to 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* the English acre; and he would naturally inquire, how such a rent is paid? To this question, I shall speak by and by. Rent, in the neighbourhood of St. Helier, is as high as from 3*l.* to 4*l.* per vergée: and generally speaking, average good land throughout the island, fetches 2*l.* per vergée, or 4*l.* 10*s.* per English

acre. Let it be always borne in mind, that two vergées and one quarter, make an English acre; and that in quoting prices, I speak of Jersey pounds, from which 1*s.* 8*d.* must be deducted, to bring them to sterling money. The rent of the best land in the country, will therefore be 5*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.* sterling; and the rent of average good land throughout the island, will be 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

To return for a moment, to the question supposed to be asked by an English farmer, how such high rents are paid? The reply is not difficult. The Jersey farmer is enabled to pay a higher rent than the English farmer, because his produce is greater, and his expenses are less. He has no land-tax to pay; little or no poor rates: his manure costs him little,—great part of it nothing beyond the expense of fetching it; and provisions being cheaper, labour is also lower. It may be alleged perhaps, that if provisions and labour are cheap, so must be the produce of the farm,—which forms so large a class of the necessaries of life. But by the peculiar immunities and privileges possessed by Jersey, the farmer, or land-owner, has all the advantage of cheap provisions, and cheap labour, while at the same time, the value of his farm produce is unaffected. When I come to speak of the commerce of the island, this fact will be more apparent; meanwhile, I may only state, that the inhabitants of Jersey may eat the beef, mutton, and flour of France without any duty on importation; while at the same time, the farmer may send his own produce to the English market free of duty; and command a much higher price for it, than that at which he can consume continental produce.

To these diminished expenses of the farmer, add the greater produce of his land, which, in wheat, potatos, and lucerne, is undeniably greater than in England,—and it will no longer appear singular, that such high rents are cheerfully paid for good land in Jersey.

The value of land is on the increase in Jersey; and this, in a ratio corresponding with the increased population, and the rapid increase of wealth among the farmers and merchants. In the parishes farthest removed from St. Helier, land has been lately selling at 117*l.* per acre; and an estate of forty vergées, lying about a mile and a half from St. Helier, was recently purchased at 150*l.* per acre. Nor is this considered in Jersey, too high a price for the best arable land. An offer was made the following day, to the purchaser, to rent the farm at 6*l.* 15*s.* per acre, leaving the purchaser in possession of the farm-house and garden, the rent of which, would pay him the full interest of his purchase money at 5 per cent.

I have already mentioned the system of lending labour and stock, which prevails amongst the farmers. This applies particularly to the great Jersey plough, or "*grande querue.*" which is held in community. At the time when Mr. Quail made his report, this plough was in universal use; nor is it yet discarded, though it is certainly less in vogue than it appears to have been in those days. The Norfolk, Suffolk, and Scotch swing ploughs have now been introduced; and Jersey farmers are beginning to discover, that ploughing to the depth of eleven inches is sufficient in the best husbandry; and it is probable, that the "*grande querue,*" with its eighteen inch deep furrows, and harnessed

with its two bullocks and eight horses,—or with its six bullocks and sixteen horses, as might once have been seen in Guernsey, will shortly be seen no more.

When Quail wrote, there was only one thrashing mill in Jersey; now, there are several; but they are all of an inferior construction. The small size however of the Jersey farms, scarcely creates a necessity for the thrashing mill.

All the writers on Jersey, whom I have consulted, state in positive terms, that tillage in Jersey has declined, and is declining; and they have assigned certain reasons why tillage is on the decline. These reasons do not however, now exist; and tillage has of late been decidedly on the increase. A great spur was given to tillage, by the construction of the new roads. Where great impediments exist in the way of bringing farm produce to market, tillage cannot well be prosperous. Twenty years ago, three horses were required to drag a ton weight of potatos to St. Helier from any of the distant parishes; and not only so,—but it was also necessary to send an *avant courier* to keep the road clear. Now, a farmer can send the same weight of potatos with a single horse and a boy, twice in one day, from the remote parishes to the pier of St. Helier.

Respecting the general husbandry of Jersey, and management of crops, I would say, that that important piece of knowledge,—the rotation of crops, as applicable to the soil and climate of Jersey, is pretty well understood. Fallows are seldom or never seen in Jersey. Wheat harvest, in the warmest situations, generally commences about the beginning of August;

though it is nearly a month later, before it be gathered in throughout the island: but this is later than it need be; for Jersey farmers allow their corn to stand till it be greatly riper than it is ever seen in England; and it is only the most careful reaping that can prevent a considerable portion from being shed.

Reaping time in Jersey, is, as in most other places, a merry time: but there is one peculiarity attending the Jersey reaping field. The reapers always sing the reaping song; and but for this song, no proprietor or farmer would be satisfied that the reapers did their duty. The song is sufficiently monotonous; but to one walking through the fields on a summer's day, the effect is not unpleasant. It is singular enough, that the words of the songs have not, in general, any relation to the island, or to the harvest, although they are called indiscriminately, "*chansons de la moisson.*" The first song I chanced to hear sung by the reapers, was some passage in the history of a Parisian belle.

The return from wheat land in Jersey, is large. It may be stated as high as thirty cabots per vergèe; or 67½ cabots per English acre, each cabot containing 30 lbs. In the summer of 1833, an intelligent farmer of St. Peter's had five hundred cabots of wheat from ten vergées of land,—which is at the rate of 69 Winchester bushels (of 56 lb.) to the English acre. At the time Mr. Quail made his report to the board of agriculture, it would appear that wheat and barley in Jersey, were grown in nearly equal quantities. This is no longer the case. There is, at least, three times more wheat than barley, sown in Jersey.

Some years ago, the practice was very general

throughout Jersey, of sowing rye and barley seed mixed; but it is now less frequent,—the inconvenience of mixing crops, which do not arrive at maturity at the same time, beginning now to be discovered; partly owing to improved notions in husbandry, and partly owing to an improved market for the more valuable crops. Oats are not extensively grown, and are used chiefly for feeding hogs.

There is no crop more carefully cultivated in Jersey, than parsnips; nor any so universally cultivated by all classes of farmers: but in parsnip husbandry, the hoe is not yet in use. The crop is cleaned in the more certain, but greatly more expensive manner of hand weeding, which is performed by women on their knees, who use small weeding forks, and deposit the weeds in baskets which they carry with them. Parsnips are now never mixed with any other crops. Various are the uses, to which parsnips are put, in Jersey: but they are not now used as human food to the extent which they were at the time Quail made his report. Both hogs and bullocks are fattened with parsnips: and their effect, in communicating a finer flavour to beef, is generally admitted. The effect of this vegetable on the flavour of butter, is also well understood: as much as 35 lbs. per day is often given to a milch cow.

Potatos being an important article of Jersey exportation, are extensively cultivated; and the cultivation of this root, is fast increasing. The management of the potato, however, is not the best; for the use of fresh sea-weed as manure on rich lands, procures a crop of potatoes, unfit either for the table or for

exportation. Between the publication of the first and the present edition of this work, I had an opportunity of observing the use of sea-weed, as a manure in the western parts of Ireland; and, it is worth mentioning, that there potatos are constantly manured with fresh sea-weed, which is universally considered to be the best of manures for this root. I need not say, that potatos, in Ireland, are generally of an excellent quality; but the different effects of the manure may probably be owing to the different soils of Jersey, and of the bog land of Connaught. The produce from potato land, in Jersey, is enormous. As many as sixteen cabots per perch, have been known to be obtained. This is no less than 62,030 lbs. avoirdupois per acre—a return very little inferior to that raised by Mr. Knight of Downton castle. Experiments are now in progress, in the island, to obtain varieties by seed.

No crop is more valued in Jersey, than lucerne; and since the introduction and increased cultivation of this grass, the beauty of the island has been greatly increased. Along many parts of the sea coast, on the sand hills, where formerly the eye did not rest upon a blade of verdure, many acres of lucerne have been laid down; and now, even in the driest seasons,—owing to the peculiar property in this plant, of sending down its roots to a surprising depth,—a constant verdure is preserved, when all other grasses are withered and burnt up. No Jersey farmer is now without a bit of lucerne; and the dry seasons which have of late prevailed, have had the effect of extending its cultivation, by bringing its properties more to

light. To mow four crops of lucerne is nothing unusual in Jersey.

I have mentioned the system adopted in Jersey, of joint-stock labour and stock. This practice, once universal, still generally obtains among the middle classes of farmers; but the more wealthy, are gradually becoming independent of this system, and are possessed of ploughs, harrows, and cattle of their own. The "*grande querue*," of which I have already spoken, is the only agricultural implement that is never possessed by an individual.

The great export of Jersey being cider, orchard land necessarily occupies a very large portion of the island. Quail states, that one fourth of the arable land is occupied by apple trees; and of late, the export of apples and of cider has been steadily on the increase. The apples the highest in estimation in Jersey, are the romeril, the noirtoit, and the grosamer. The crop is of course extremely varied in quantity: one tree sometimes produces a hogshead of cider; and the general average may be stated to be from eight to twelve hogsheads per vergèe of land. Sometime ago, a company was established in St. Helier, for the manufacture of cider; but the speculation has now been abandoned. It may easily be inferred, from the great quantity of orchard land, that apples are considered to be among the most productive crops. Apples are, indeed, considered entitled to the first place; and then follow potatos, lucerne, and wheat.

I have already, in speaking of the inhabitants, and their customs, introduced some notice of the *vraic*, or sea-weed, as the principal island manure. So impor-

tant, and so valuable, is this manure deemed, that its equal distribution has been the subject of many legislative enactments. Among others, it is forbidden to carry away *vraic* between sun-set and sun-rise,—in order, probably, to secure an equal chance of appropriation to those living in the interior, as to those on the sea shore; and in the western parishes, on the shores of which, the westerly winds drive, at times, vast quantities of sea-weed, the law establishes the mode of division amongst those who reside in these parishes.

But the largest and most valuable supply of vraic is not obtained by the chance contribution of the tide; but is taken from the rocks on which it grows, at two seasons of the year, fixed by the Royal Court of the island. The vraic is used as a manure, either fresh from the rock, or, after it has been used as fuel. The former is considered to be the most efficient, as a manure on grass lands; but for other crops it is generally preferred burnt.

In a very early morning ride through the country, one is apt to imagine that everywhere the Jersey farmer and his household are astir, even before day-break; for one descries the smoke rising from every farm-house, and from almost every cottage. But this is owing to the custom of never extinguishing the vraic fire: nor would there be any economy in a contrary practice, since the consumption of fuel, is the manufacture of manure.

It has already been said, that ownerships of land being generally small, the proprietor and his family, with occasional assistance from neighbouring proprie-

tors, in very many cases perform the whole labour. Since wealth however has increased, and an improved and more experimental husbandry has been introduced, hired labour has become more common.

The following table exhibits the price of labour at four different periods, 1775, 1792, 1813, and 1833. The three first are given in Mr. Quail's report,—the last, is stated from my own information.

	1775.		1792.		1813.		1833.			
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Master Carpenter - - -	1	4½	——		5	0	3	6		
Journeyman ditto - - -	1	0	——		4	0	2	9		
Carpenter's Apprentice - -	0	5	——		1	6	1	3	to 1	6
Gardener, with board - -	0	5	——		2	0	3	0	to 3	6
Thatcher - - - - - - -	1	0	——		4	0	4	0		
Weeding women employed in husbandry, with board -	0	2½	——		1	0	1	0		
Ditto, without board - -	——		——		——		0	6		
Mason superintending work	1	3	1	10	5	0	3	6	to 4	0
Mason - - - - - - - -	——		——		——		2	9		
Day Labourer, with board -	3	0	5	0	1	6	1	8	to 2	0

Some Frenchmen work for 1*s.*, and Frenchwomen for 10*d.* per day.

It remains for me to say a few words respecting the live stock of Jersey: and this to the English reader, who has heard so much of the cow of these islands—commonly called the Alderney cow—will probably be the most interesting topic connected with Jersey agriculture.

The islands are particularly tenacious of their claims in this matter. Each contends for the superiority of its own breed: but there is no reason to doubt, that the breed of all the islands is originally the same; though, from the system pursued by the agricultural society of Guernsey, the breed of that island now

differs in many essential particulars from the breed of Alderney and Jersey. I shall by and by, when occupied with Guernsey, have an opportunity of speaking more at length of the Guernsey cow.

It is the opinion of the best informed upon agricultural matters, that the Jersey and Alderney cow is the same—both, distinguished by the fine curved taper horn, slender nose, fine skin, and deer-like form; and both preserved in their purity, by breeding in and in.

Quail in his report truly says, that "next to the possession of vraic, the treasure highest in a Jerseyman's estimation is his cow." It is the same now as in Quail's time. The cow is the object of his chief attention; and the care and affection which he lavishes upon it, may be compared with that which a German lavishes on his horse,—only that the kindness which the Jerseyman shews for his cow, appears to exhaust all the kindness which he has to bestow on the inferior animals,—for I have never, in any country, seen horses treated with less kindness than in Jersey. I cannot do better than quote the words of Quail when speaking of the affection of a Jerseyman for his cow. "It is true," says he, "that in summer, she must submit to be staked to the ground; but five or six times in the day, her station is shifted. In winter she is warmly housed by night, and fed with the precious parsnip; when she calves, she is regaled with toast, and with the nectar of the island, cider; to which, powdered ginger is added; and could she be prevailed on to participate in all her master's tastes, there is no doubt, but that he would willingly bestow on her the quintescence of vraic itself."

The high estimation in which the Jersey cow is held by its possessors, is shared by the island legislature, which has preserved the purity of the breed, by special enactments. An act was passed in the year 1789, by which the importation into Jersey, of cow, heifer, calf, or bull, is prohibited, under the penalty of 200 livres, with the forfeiture of boat and tackle; and a fine of 50 livres is also imposed on every sailor on board, who does not inform of the attempt. The animal too, is decreed to be immediately slaughtered, and its flesh given to the poor.

The number of cows everywhere dotting the pastures of Jersey, add greatly to the beauty of the landscape; though when one passes near to them, the discovery that they are tethered, somewhat decreases the pleasure we have in seeing them. In apple orchards, however, in which, the under grass crop is always used as cow pasture, it is necessary to tether the animal; and not only so, but to attach also, the head to the feet, that the cow may be prevented from raising her head, and eating the apples, which she would be quite welcome to do, were it not that when grown to any considerable size, they might injure her.

All over England, the Alderney cow—as it is generally called—is celebrated not only for its beauty, but for the richness of its milk, and excellence of the butter made from it. Extraordinary milkers even among Jersey cows, are sometimes found; I have heard of three cows on one property, yielding each from 16 to 18 quarts per day, during the months of May and June,—and of 36lbs. of butter being made

weekly from their milk. I have heard indeed, of one cow yielding 22 quarts: but these are of course extreme cases. The general average produce from Jersey cows, may be stated at 10 quarts of milk per day, and 7lbs. of butter per week. It is stated, that in summer, from 9 to 10 quarts produce 1lb. of butter,—and that in winter, when a cow is parsnip fed, the same quantity of butter may be obtained from 7 quarts; an extraordinary produce certainly.

The profit on the best cows, the calf included, is estimated at about 12*l.*—30*l.* being the money received for produce, and the keep reaching 18*l.*: but this certainly applies only to the best cows. Two vergées and a half, or somewhat better than an acre of good land, is considered sufficient for a cow's pasture.

The price of Jersey cows has considerably fallen during the last fifteen years. A good cow may now be purchased for 12*l.* A prime milker will fetch 15*l*; and the average may be stated from 8*l.* to 10*l.*

When we come to speak of the commerce of Jersey, it will be seen, that the export of Jersey butter, both fresh and salted, is very great; and as its quality is highly estimated, I shall make no apology for shortly detailing the mode of its manufacture.

Vessels of metal or of wood, are never employed in the dairy. The coarse unglazed earthenware of Normandy, is used. The vessels are round, of about twelve inches in height,—seven inches in diameter at bottom and nine inches at the top. The Staffordshire coarse pottery, in form somewhat resembling the French vessels, being glazed, is therefore never used in the Jersey dairy. The milk stands at the height of

about ten inches in the vessel, till the cream be all risen, which in summer, is usually the third day. In winter, to hasten its rising, the vessels are covered and placed on the earth at bed-time. Skimming is consequently but once performed; and never, until after the milk be coagulated. To the operation of skimming, great attention is bestowed: the cream is first detached from the edge of the vessel all round; and then is drawn together as much as possible: and by inclining the vessel over that which is destined to receive the cream, sometimes the whole slips off at once from the coagulated milk. At the bottom of the vessel which contains the cream, there is a small hole, stopped up by a peg, which is occasionally withdrawn in order to drain off the serous portion separating the cream. Butter is never considered so good in Jersey when the cow is fed on lucerne or clover, as on natural pasture. It is generally admitted, that Jersey butter, when salted, preserves its good properties for a longer period than English butter.

That, notwithstanding the attention bestowed upon the Jersey cow, and the purity of its breed, guarded as it is, both by law and rooted opinion, the Jersey cow has nevertheless deteriorated, is certain. I was present at the inaugurational meeting of the agricultural society for Jersey, at which many facts illustrative of this truth, were stated by the secretary.

There is no such thing as a breed of sheep in Jersey. Sheep are only reared by those who have a right of common, and who live in the neighbourhood of the common; and the sheep are left entirely to shift for themselves. It is in fact, only the poorer

classes who keep sheep at all. Jersey is not indeed well adapted for sheep. From the orchard land it would of course be necessary to exclude them; and the fences, which though apparently formidable, are but embankments, would be insufficient to restrain their roving disposition. The style of cottage farming too, is not suitable for sheep rearing.

Of horses, I have only to say, that little attention is paid to the breed; but the Jersey horse is well deserving of attention. It is a hardy and hard working animal, and is in fact a cross of the cossack; a fact which is easily explained. In the year 1800, when the assistance of a body of Russians was demanded by England, and when, on the result of a parliamentary interference, these troops were not permitted to land in England, they were sent to be quartered in Jersey, where they remained a considerable time; and a large portion of the horses being cossacks, the cossack cross, which is at once discoverable even in the appearance of the Jersey horses, but much more in their properties, is at once accounted for.

I conclude this chapter on the agriculture of Jersey, by referring to the recent establishment of an agricultural society in the island, under the best auspices, and which, I have no doubt, will produce important results. Premiums have already been offered for the best specimens of every kind of produce; and the society already numbers among its members, a large proportion of the agriculturists of the island; among whom, no one is more deserving of mention, than its enlightened secretary, Colonel Le Couteur, to whose

kindness, and extensive information, I am happy to acknowledge myself indebted, for the data which have guided me in writing this chapter.

CHAPTER X.

COMMERCE OF JERSEY.

JERSEY is not to be regarded merely as an agreeable and fertile island, the favourite resort of strangers,—nor as a spot, curious to the inquirer, as enjoying singular political privileges,—nor as a social community, differing in manners and character from others,—and on all these accounts, interesting to the observer. If we are to regard Jersey in its most important aspect, it is as a commercial community that we must regard it. It will probably surprise the reader to be told, that there are no fewer than 232 vessels belonging to Jersey, with a tonnage reaching 21,000; besides nearly 500 large boats; upwards of 300 of which, are employed in the oyster fishery; that there are nearly 2000 seamen employed in these vessels,—besides at least another thousand who are engaged in the oyster fishery,—and that in the year 1833, more vessels were built in the island of Jersey, than in the whole of Ireland.

Although the people of Jersey, in their ignorance, —I might say, in their insanity,—regard as the objects of their greatest veneration, and chief affection, those among their political privileges, which are not only worthless, but injurious,—it is to their commercial

privileges alone, that the island is indebted for its prosperity. One political privilege indeed,—the exemption from direct taxation, may also be considered a source of prosperity; because the number of British residents has thereby been greatly increased: but even in this, Jersey is chiefly indebted to her commercial privileges; which exempt articles of both common convenience and luxury, from that indirect taxation which flows from custom-house and excise duties.

The commerce of Jersey may be divided into the following heads,—her trade with Great Britain, and the British possessions abroad: her trade with North and South America, and with the continent of Europe, —entirely unconnected with the former; and, a third branch, connected with both (*i. e.*), the transit of British manufactures, to Newfoundland, New Brunswick, &c., for the supply of the fisheries, and establishments there, of the Jersey merchants; and the exportation from thence, of fish, oil, and furs, to the several ports of Europe and South America.

These are the several branches of the commerce of Jersey; and it will immediately appear, in what way, and to how great an extent, the success of these branches of trade is affected by the commercial privileges which the island enjoys.

The peculiar privileges, which Jersey by her charters, enjoys, are these: she is empowered to send all articles being the produce of the island, to Britain —as British produce; and every description of merchandize, the growth, produce, *and* manufacture of the island, to Great Britain and Ireland, on the same

footing. She is also enabled to export every commodity, either the growth, produce *or* manufacture of the island, to the British colonies, the same as if they were British manufactured goods.

It will be observed, that there is an important distinction between the term, "growth, produce, *and* manufacture," and the term, "growth, produce, *or* manufacture;" for while by the former expression, the free exports of Jersey to Britain of manufactured goods, must be not only the manufacture, but the produce also, of the island; Jersey is entitled by the terms of the latter expression, to export to the colonies, articles manufactured in the island, though of foreign produce. The advantage derived from this latter license, is obvious; and I will only instance as two examples, the power of importing foreign flour; manufacturing it into biscuit,—if such a process deserves the name of a manufacture,—and exporting the biscuit, or provisioning ships with it: and the power of importing French leather; making it,—I can scarcely say manufacturing it,—into shoes; and exporting these to North America as Jersey manufactures.

Nor are these, the only commercial privileges which Jersey enjoys. Jersey is a free port: all articles of foreign produce, not contraband, being imported free of duty,—a privilege, which not only lessens the price of provisions to the inhabitants; but diminishes in an important degree, the cost of ship building and outfit; and consequently acts as a stimulus to trade, and is a source of direct profit to the merchant. By means of this privilege, vessels are built with foreign timber and

are rigged with foreign cordage; and although so built of foreign timber squared for the purpose abroad, and imported duty free,—and rigged in a great measure, with foreign manufactured cordage, purchased at a cheap rate in Russia, yet Jersey vessels have the advantage of British registers, and consequently enjoy all the advantages in trade, secured to British built vessels.

I may also state here, that Jersey vessels load for a foreign port, without the articles put on board being subject to examination; all that is required being, a declaration, that the articles so shipped, are of British manufacture: and, on the arrival of a vessel from a foreign port, she may commence unloading even at midnight; and half her cargo may be discharged, before an entry is made in the custom-house;—the act called the Manifest Act, never having been registered in the island.

Such are the commercial privileges enjoyed by Jersey; and with the possession of these, and exempt besides, as the island is, from all taxation,—excepting only, such as is needed to defray the charges of internal improvement, to which by the by, Britain has of late years largely contributed—it is no way wonderful, that the trade of Jersey should have rapidly increased; and that the island should have made swift advances in wealth and importance. Forty years ago, the trade of Jersey was insignificant, compared with what it now is. It was then confined to the voyages of a few vessels to Newfoundland, and to the monthly trip of a cutter to Southampton.

Guernsey, even before that period, was in some

degree known, as a place of trade: but its notoriety was owing more to its illicit traffic in spirits and tobacco with the opposite ports of England, than to the fair and honourable dealings with its population as a mercantile community. A stop having been put to the nefarious traffic which had so largely contributed to the prosperity of Guernsey, the inhabitants did not take advantage of the independence of South America, to open new sources of wealth.

During the war, Jersey was not without her illicit dealings; and considerable fortunes were thus amassed, by what was denominated the licensed trade. Jersey vessels obtained licenses to trade to French ports, and bring back specified cargoes: and the Manifest act having never, as I have already said, been registered in the island, these vessels immediately commenced unloading, no custom-house officer being present; and the cargoes being sent direct to the merchant's warehouse, quantities of French silks were thus introduced, and sent to England, or elsewhere, as opportunities offered. In the year 1812, the lieutenant-governor received 339*l.* for trading licenses.

In 1812, the mercantile shipping of Jersey, consisted of 59 vessels, the burden of which, was 6003 tons,—navigated by 549 seamen; since which time, to 1833, the increase in registered vessels has been 112 —besides a large number of cutters and boats; the increase in tonnage, 15,436; the increase in seamen, 1500.

In the former edition of this work, I presented in the chapter on trade, a series of minute details, transferred from official documents; but in the present

edition, some little abridgment is necessary, since I am anxious that the work should not extend beyond a single volume. My notices of trade, must therefore be of a more general nature; and I am happy in believing, that the omissions to which I allude, will not render the work less attractive to the great majority of readers, to whom there is little inviting in the enumeration of bales, tons, hogsheads, barrels, and quintals. I shall only mention the chief articles of export and import, without entering into minutiæ, and shall aim only at conveying a general view of the present condition of the commerce of the island.

In the produce of the island generally, a great increase in exportation has taken place since the termination of the war. In the year 1810, and three following years, 3050 cows, heifers, and calves were exported from Jersey; while during the three years ending with December, 1832, the number of cows, &c. reached 5756. The whole of this export of cows, is to England.

The import of live stock for consumption, is very large. During the four above-named years, 8807 oxen, 18,781 sheep, 3123 lambs, 1359 pigs, and 58,956 live poultry were imported from France,—and during the same period, 102 oxen, and 968 sheep, from England.

Of the trade in grain, I must speak with a little more minuteness; because its details are somewhat curious. During the above four years, it appears that Jersey imported 73,620 quarters of foreign wheat, and 818 tons of foreign flour; and that during the same period, there was exported, 11,197 quarters of

wheat, and 258 tons of foreign flour; leaving the enormous surplus of 62,423 quarters of wheat, and 560 tons of flour. But this is explained, when upon examining the tables for these same years, we find there was exported from Jersey, as Jersey and British produce, 263 tons of flour, and 618 tons of biscuit; from which it appears, that Jersey flour and biscuit exported to the colonies, is chiefly made of foreign wheat. The biscuit, though doubtless known to be made of foreign flour, passes under the clause which permits the manufactures of Jersey to be exported to the colonies.

During the year 1833, 1849 quarters of Jersey wheat were exported to England.

The foreign grain imported into Jersey, is from the Baltic; a small portion of the wheat, is from France, Spain and Sicily.

The whole of the oats, and almost all the barley imported into Jersey, is consumed in the island. The quantity of foreign oats imported in the above years, was 6099 quarters; and of foreign barley 12,583.

Of other island produce, potatos, apples, and cider, which is an island manufacture, as well as a produce, form the largest exports. The export of potatos is chiefly to Britain; and some portion to Gibraltar, Malta, and South America; and the quantity exported during the four years, ending with 1832, was twenty-five times greater than the quantity exported during the four years ending with 1813.

The export of cider and of apples, are both large; and are rapidly increasing. On an average, nearly 150,000 gallons of cider are exported yearly.

One of the most important articles of Jersey trade —that perhaps, in which the commercial privileges of the island are turned to the greatest advantage, is the trade in leather, which is imported from France into Jersey, in very large quantities, and is then made into boots and shoes, and exported as an island manufacture to the colonies. The question was at one time started in the island, whether foreign leather made into boots and shoes, could be sent free to the colonies, as the manufacture of the island; but the question,—as far as the custom-house authorities of Jersey could settle it,—was set at rest, by their admission of the plea: and thus, the trade in imported leather, and exported boots and shoes, chiefly to Newfoundland, has gone on constantly increasing. But indeed this increase is visible in almost every article of exportation, the produce or manufacture of the island; a result to be anticipated from the favourable position in which the island is placed in time of peace, compared with its situation in time of war. This observation is easily proved, when applied to some of the chief articles of export,—cattle, potatos, cider, &c.

During hostilities with France, the principal resources of the island, arose from the expenditure of a large garrison, and from the precarious profits arising from privateering. All the island supplies were during war time, received from England at an enhanced price; beef was 1*s.* 1*d.* per lb., bread at 6*d.*, and other articles proportionably dear. Such being the state of things, it was advantageous to the farmer, to raise as many oxen as cows, and to cultivate wheat to the greatest possible extent. High prices ensured him a

handsome return; but no sooner did the war terminate, than the island was inundated with French produce. Meat instantly fell to $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $3d.$ per lb.; bread to $1d.$ and $1\frac{1}{4}d.$: the consequence of this, naturally was, that the farmer ceased to rear oxen: the cow calves were reared for the English market, and hence then, the increase on the exportation of cows.

Again; as it was no longer profitable, at the termination of the war, to cultivate wheat, the land was either thrown into orchards, which increased the quantity of fruit,—the under-grass serving for the feeding of cattle: or else, it was planted with potatos; and hence the large increase in the exportation of cider, apples, and potatos.

In fact, the population of Jersey, is at the present moment supported by the produce of foreign countries; while the island, in virtue of her privileges, exports to a better market, all articles of her own growth.

In foreign wines, the trade of Jersey is extensive. The total amount of wines imported during the year 1832, was 126,352 gallons, 93 pipes, 41 hogsheads, 31 quarter casks, 8205 dozens. And in the same year 30,564 gallons, and 7584 dozens were re-exported. The export is chiefly to North and South America, to Russia, to England, and to Guernsey.

The quantity of spirituous liquors imported into Jersey is very great, and the consumption of spirits in the island, is enormous. I have before me, an official note of the quantity of spirits actually sold for consumption in the island, from March 1832, to March 1833. The quantity is 293,528 pots of brandy; 41,470 pots of rum; and 75,745 pots of geneva, in

all 410,743 pots of spirits. This, estimating the grown-up male population at 10,000, is an allowance of 41 pots to each individual.

The oyster trade of Jersey deserves a particular notice. It employs, as I have elsewhere said, 1500 men, 1000 women and children, and 250 boats; thus giving employment, and providing subsistence to a large and industrious class. The quantity of oysters sent from the Jersey fisheries to the English ports, during the above-named four years, was as follows:

Years.	Bushels.
1829	239,120
1830	212,056
1831	217,676
1832	163,240

I shall not pursue these details farther; and shall only add a very few observations tending to shew, how, and to what extent, the trade of Jersey is influenced by the commercial privileges which the island enjoys.

The first privilege which I shall recapitulate, is, that by which she is enabled to export her produce to England, as British produce. This privilege is most invaluable, in conjunction with the other privilege of importing foreign produce duty free; since, as I have already observed, and shewn by the details given, the consumption of the island, is supplied from foreign countries,—while the produce of the island, raised upon untaxed land, and with cheap labour, is sent to the British ports, with the same advantages as if the vessels and cargoes were British. I shall not suppose, that any *foreign* produce is sent to England, as the

produce of Jersey; there is sufficient advantage to the agriculturist, as well as to the trade of the island, without any illicit commerce. At the same time, it will be admitted, that the temptation to export wheat or flour to England, which has been purchased in the Baltic at so cheap a rate, is considerable.

The privilege of importing into Jersey unprohibited articles of foreign produce, duty free, is no less advantageous to the trade of the island. A large proportion of articles of foreign produce imported into Jersey, are re-exported; and these, the Jersey merchant can afford to sell in foreign ports, or in English ports, at a lower rate than they can be sold for by others, who have obtained them in the countries where they are produced: because the Jersey merchant has no expense of bonding,—and scarcely any charges to pay, of wharfage and harbour dues. He carries his cargo direct to his warehouse; and sends it, at his own time, with all its advantages, to another market. And, besides that the absence of charges upon merchandize enables him to find a remunerating market,—the same privilege of which I am speaking,—that of importing foreign commodities duty free,—gives him additional advantages in re-exporting such commodities, by the opportunity thus afforded him, of building, rigging, fitting out, and provisioning his vessels, with materials collected wherever in the world he can buy them the cheapest, and which he imports free of duty.

Nor is it a less important privilege than these, that Jersey may export to the British colonies, articles the produce *or* manufacture of the island. This, even unconnected with the power of importing foreign

produce, duty free, would be an important privilege; but when taken in connexion with that other power, it gives to Jersey, advantages which are only limited by her capital and population. Hitherto, indeed, these advantages have been confined to the export of dressed leather, boots and shoes, ready-made clothes, flour,—all, less or more manufactured from foreign produce: but there is no article of British manufacture, from foreign produce, that with capital, Jersey could not fabricate and export, with equal advantage,—underselling the British manufacturer in the colonial market.

CHAPTER XI.

ON HEALTH AND DISEASE IN JERSEY, IN RELATION TO THE INFLUENCES OF CLIMATE, &c.

By Matthew Scholefield, M.D. and M.B.: Jersey.
Late President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh.

[The author of this work, not being himself conversant with the science of medicine, has judged it best, on so important a subject as the diseases of these islands, to call in the aid of persons, competent by their professional education, to undertake the duty. Of the ability with which the task has been executed, it is not for him to express any opinion].

SECTION I.

The statistics of the diseases of Jersey, present in general much uniformity with those of England. The difference in the diseases of England and Jersey,

although greater than that seen in the diseases of any two contiguous counties of the former, is probably not greater than what presents itself in counties equally removed from each other in their local peculiarities, and by their geographical position. Pathologically too, I consider the diseases of the two countries, as, for the most part, identical; whether in regard to the broad outline of their nosological character, or in reference to the application of those great curative principles, proper to be adopted in each country.

In the pathology and statistics of a few diseases, however, a marked difference is perceptible to the eye of him who has attentively considered these diseases as they are exhibited in this, and in the parent island. But this discrepancy is visible only in a few maladies; and in such chiefly, as in England, are found to be at all times influenced by locality,—by vicissitudes of temperature,—and by differences in the moral and economic habitudes of the people; the corresponding diversity among diseases, produced by the combination of these causes, being ever found most clearly marked, where these causes are most direct and powerful in their operation.

The full and scientific analysis of my subject would embrace the consideration of the diseases of Jersey under three heads:—

First, as these diseases affect the people in the rural districts.

Next, as they are exhibited in the natives residing in St. Helier.

And lastly, as they are found to influence the British residents.

Did the limits of this inquiry permit, much that is interesting to the general as well as the scientific reader, might doubtless be said on each of these subjects; and I shall have occasion, as I proceed, continually to refer to each: but my design demands that I should more particularly insist upon the last heads; and detail, with some precision, the effects which the climate of this island exerts upon the health and diseases of the residents of St. Helier.

My inquiry naturally divides itself into two parts. The first comprehends the enumeration of those diseases which are more frequently the objects of medical practice here than in England. The second includes a specification of such as are of less frequent occurrence; or which are marked by a less degree of severity. The investigation of the probable causes of these differences also falls within my limits. The general pathology or the particular treatment of these diseases forms no part of my design; from which, only in one instance, have I been tempted to depart.

In entering upon my subject, I must begin by claiming the indulgence of the general reader. It will be my endeavour to make myself throughout as perspicuous and intelligible as possible, by resorting to general terms and phrases, wherever I can do so without injury to my subject: for I am well aware, that although, in the science of medicine, a distinct nomenclature is indispensable, in order to confer upon it that precision of language and of ideas, necessary to

be observed among those who propose to advance its interests, by advancing it certainly,—yet, with the technical phraseology of our art, the mere gentleman, or even the accomplished scholar cannot reasonably be supposed to be very familiar; while it is to such readers, as well as to the more scientific, that these pages will be submitted.

SECTION II.

The diseases then, of the most frequent occurrence in Jersey, or which are marked by some peculiarities of character, are the following:—rheumatism, chiefly chronic: hæpatitis, or liver disease; also, for the most part, chronic; and generally functional, rather than structural: hypochondriasis, or melancholy: dyspepsia: dropsy: and, in the class of fevers, the milder forms of the remittent, the slow typhöid, and the intermittent.

Besides these diseases, the physician, who has examined, with a critical and scrutinizing eye, the influence, in both countries, excited by the epidemics arising in different seasons, upon the phazes and character of the diseases of common occurrence, cannot fail to have remarked, that not only are those epidemics more prevalent here than in the counties of England, but that they also exercise a more marked influence upon the contemporaneous diseases. So true indeed is this remark, that among the class of febrile and inflammatory diseases, it is seldom we meet with an isolated case; such diseases generally occurring in groups; or, at least, such as are met with in the vicinity of a case of highly marked character,

having generally a striking resemblance to that case; either in some anomalous symptom,—in the periods of their exacerbation,—in their progress,—or in the length of their duration.

The cause of this singularity, I shall endeavour in part to explain; and from such explanation it will be seen, that as in some other diseases, particularly affecting the resident, the fault is often attributable to himself, and the means of prevention, if not of cure, lie partly within his power: so here also, it is highly probable, that much might be done by art, to obviate the universality of epidemics in their influence on other diseases: and that the road to such improvement in the sanatory condition of the island, is actually beginning to be laid open; as will appear more fully hereafter.

The first disease to which I shall refer, is rheumatism; since I believe it is admitted on all hands, that there is none prevalent in the island, to which both natives and residents are so extensively liable. Among the people in the rural districts, it is universal after the age of thirty: and as a protection against its attacks, the field labourers (who are of both sexes) resort generally to flannel as a clothing. This is the more conspicuous from its colour, which is uniformly red; since it is a common opinion, and perhaps therefore, not without some foundation in truth *(interdum vulgus rectum videt)*, that the colour of the flannel is as instrumental as the fabric itself, towards proving a safeguard and protection against rheumatism.

Among the British residents, the disease, though less general, is still very prevalent. Its form is for the

most part chronic;—few instances presenting themselves of that severely acute form, which requires the prompt and vigorous use of the lancet. In one respect also, it is somewhat peculiar; for, as it often attacks the joints of the fingers, wrists and ancles, the definition "*Genua et reliquos majores, potius quam pedum et manuum articulos infestans*" is here inapplicable.

Among the causes (hereafter detailed) that predispose the body to rheumatism, or that directly excite it, by far the most influential is the great humidity of the atmosphere in Jersey. This is a fact well known to ironmongers and cutlers, who scrupulously avoid exposing any valuable wares in the windows of their shops: while polished steel fire ranges are rarely to be met with; since they demand the unceasing vigilance of servants, to preserve them from rusting even during the summer months.

To the production of this humidity several causes conspire. These it is important to bring under review, as being of moment, in the elucidation of every part of my subject. Besides its insular position, the island is everywhere thick set with wood;—every little section of ground (the property of some cotter) being hedged in with four rows of trees. The island moreover being continually intersected at intervals of a few hundred yards by pathways, beset with their double file of trees, planted on embankments, so high as to intercept the view from the top of the loftiest carriage,—after the rains of autumn have commenced, these pathways remain constantly wet during the whole of the winter; since neither can the rays of the sun penetrate, nor can currents of air freely ventilate the earth. Occasionally

the trees are felled; but even then, the stocks are left so high that, with the aid of the lofty embankments, they effectually impede all ventilation. Other causes yet remain behind: an imperfect system of drainage; or no drainage at all: the prevalence of winds from the south-west, blowing directly up the Channel from across the Atlantic ocean—impregnated with moisture and with saline particles that cause the moisture to be more slowly dissipated into vapour: the great recession of the tide at low water, leaving all around the island a vast extent of bare rocks and sands; from which saline vapours largely arise, in consequence of the comparative warmth of the temperature even during the winter months; while these vapours are scattered in all directions by currents of air arising from the great diversity of the island in hill and dale.

The town of St. Helier too, the great resort of the residents, is perhaps, in this respect unfavourably placed;—standing on the southern shore of the island, and, so to speak, at the neck of a spine of valleys that intersect it through its whole extent. From its southern aspect therefore, as well as from its position at the thin margin of a wedge of land that gradually slopes down to the sea from a distance of three or four miles northward, it is not improbable that the clouds and vapours are attracted over it by the meridian sun; and are in part intercepted, on arriving at the shore, by those lofty forts that block up the town towards the sea; and that so materially obstruct the free transmission of air, and the dissipation of unwholesome fogs and vapours.

The conclusion to which by reasoning *a priori* we

should be led, respecting the humidity of this climate, hygrometric observations have long fully established.

The consideration of the manner in which extreme humidity of the atmosphere acts in predisposing the body to attacks of rheumatism, or in actually exciting them, would belong to an abstract work on the science of medicine. That such however is the fact, is known to all: while it must also be admitted, that this humidity is rendered still more general in these parts, by the comparative warmth of the climate during the winter months. For here, we rarely witness any of those long and bracing frosts that are so invigorating to the body in the more northern latitudes; and which, even in Holland, are found to dissipate for months, the languid fogs of winter.

I have been the more minute in pointing out the causes of that humidity, so universally felt and complained of, particularly by the residents, from being persuaded that much may be done towards removing it, by the resources of art. This will be obvious by glancing back to the above enumeration of its causes; for, although the local legislature of Jersey, in all its wisdom and omnipotence, is unable to change the course of the winds, or to command the out-goings of the ocean, yet, I trust I shall be pardoned for stating my belief, that it is very possible for that patriotic body to effect much. It is competent, for instance, in that assembly to pass laws for establishing a system of universal drainage; to order the felling of trees and the lopping of branches that block up the highways; and to cause the removal of those lofty embankments, that everywhere intercept the view of the traveller;

and prevent both sun and air from penetrating the quagmires, called roads, that lie between them; and which, being now no longer wanted as defences against the invasions of the French, seem at present to serve no other purpose than to preserve, unmolested, during half the year, those fœtid and unwholesome airs that are generated from the slow decomposition of an exuberant foliage; and thus, if not actually to sow the seeds of disease, at least to contribute in the most certain and effectual manner, to render the human body more obnoxious to its attacks, less able to support itself under them, and more slow and lingering in its convalescence.

And here it gives me great pleasure to be enabled to state, that both the legislature and the more influential inhabitants at large of Jersey, have lately begun, with patriotic and praiseworthy zeal, to open out a channel for such improvements in the sanatory condition of the island, by the establishment of an "agricultural society," founded upon liberal and extensive views, and under the highest patronage. It is with peculiar satisfaction that I here refer to this new institution; as I presume that those measures to which I have just alluded, for the general improvement of the health of the island, will fall legitimately within its scope and comprehension; while, from the patronage extended to it by the legislature, and from the ardent zeal and distinguished ability manifested by its founders and promoters, I have the strongest assurance, that the important suggestions here offered, will not be permitted to pass unregarded.

Admitting, as I do most fully, the fact, that a damp

atmosphere is a very general predisposing cause of rheumatism, (and damp, as applied to the body, is synonymous with cold), I cannot quite agree with a distinguished writer of the day, in thinking it the *only* cause. Everything tending to debilitate the general constitutional energies, tends doubtless to render the body more susceptible of the action of causes, that would otherwise be inert. Hence a predisposition to this disease is doubtless given to many of the residents, by the practice, too general among them, of nightly visitings; in returning from which they are unavoidably exposed to the damps and fogs of the midnight air,—and that too at a time when the mind is exhausted and spiritless; and the body relaxed by exposure, for hours, to the unwholesome air of crowded apartments. Among the rural population again, two causes, of a very different kind, claim our notice under this head. The former is the severity of their field labours, in conjunction with an impoverished diet; the latter, is the extensive use of ardent spirits, as appears indubitably from the statements in a former chapter, drawn up from official sources. It is natural that the labourer, being the owner of the little plot of land which he cultivates, and to which he trusts as his only maintenance and support, should assiduously strive to make the most of it; and that too with a degree of interest unfelt by one who labours for hire, and is careless of the results. The crops that he grows are destined for the supply of his own family: should one of them fail, that article, however great a necessary of life, is so much cut off from the year's provisions; since land, not money, is

the patrimony of the cottager. Hence I am informed, by unquestionable authority, that hundreds of the smaller farmers (the labouring class) live, for months together, upon a diet consisting of a dark brown bread, cider largely diluted with water, and a soup made of kale or cabbage, lubricated with a morsel of the fat of bacon,—the leaner parts being reserved for holidays. Such a diet is obviously insufficient for the support of the body under field labours, often continued almost unremittingly for 14, 16, 18, or even 20 hours. It is not therefore surprising, that they should be found resorting to the use of ardent spirits, in order, as they express it, "to give them heart;" and especially, since the low price of alcohol, under all its forms, offers in Jersey an almost irresistible temptation to the poor cotter to "steep his labours in forgetfulness."

I have already said, that rheumatic fever is of less frequent occurrence in these parts than the chronic or sub-acute form: and I am assured by other medical gentlemen of long experience, that they do not remember one instance of metastasis of rheumatism to to the heart.

Hepatic or bilious diseases come next to be considered; being next in the frequency of their occurrence here as compared with England. However extraordinary the announcement may at first appear, the views which I shall open upon this subject, tend to associate these affections closely with those that have just occupied our consideration; for it will be seen that the hepatic derangement to which, under this head, I make particular reference, owes its origin, in all probability, to the same causes that give birth to

the sub-acute form of rheumatism; and is actually accompanied by many of its symptoms: and that there is even strong ground for believing it to be, in fact, if not a metastasis of rhuematism, at least an extension of that disease to the liver. Liver disease presents itself under two distinct forms. The first is the chronic or sub-acute form; or, more frequently still, symptoms of structural disorganization of the liver consequent on that state. This is common among the subordinate classes of natives, among whom, beyond doubt, partial induration of the liver is very general. Hence the prevalence of hydropic disease under all its forms.

But it is to the second kind of hepatic affection that I am solicitous more particularly to direct the attention of the faculty. This kind shews itself mainly under the form of functional derangement of this viscus, and of those organs in its propinquity, that co-operate towards its function. It is thus characterized. A person, after some brief and obscure minifestations usual in the commencement of pyrexial disease, is attacked by sickness and vomiting. A dull pain is referred to the right shoulder, the epigastrium, and the right hypochondrium. This is increased by pressure on those regions. The tongue is white and furred at the sides. The pulse is nearly natural; the urine is reddish, and deposits largely on standing. The eyes are lively but yellow; the countenance is sallow, and the bowels at first open, but afterwards costive. The vomiting comes on irregularly:—occasionally three or four times a day, at other times twenty: and, after a day or two, bile is discernible in the egesta. The

constitutional derangement is not urgent; and the functions of the sensorium are not disturbed; although vertigo is sometimes present, and pain is often referred to the scalp, the cheek, or jaw of one side. These symptoms vary as to the length of their continuance; sometimes ceasing within four or five days;—at others extending to as many weeks. But the health of the patient is re-established; and frequently remains for a time better than before the attack; which, however, in a month or two, generally recurs from some slight cause; and again runs through the circuit of its course.

These symptoms, however, are rarely present simultaneously, or even in the same case; and some of them are occasionally altogether absent. The disease chiefly affects persons between the ages of twenty and fifty; and generally such as have been previously subject to rheumatism. But what especially marks the relationship of this disease with rheumatism (in addition to many of the symptoms detailed, which will be recognized as belonging to the latter) is this: that it is often consecutive upon fugitive pains, shifting from joint to joint, or lodging in the region of some of the great aponeurotic or ligamentous expansions of the back or trunk; or else it is actually accompanied by such pains,—the latter being by far the more frequent occurrence. In three cases, however, I have known this disease put an end to attacks of rheumatism that had for many years before greatly harassed the individuals, on any sudden changes of the wind to any particular quarters,—or of the moisture and temperature of the atmosphere. Lastly, the two diseases are assimilated in another respect,—being both prevalent in

the same season; and under a similitude of circumstances, as touching the habits and locality of the persons affected by them.

These points of analogy in the symptoms, are, I think, sufficiently close and numerous to warrant the opinion here advanced, that those disorders of the chylopoïetic viscera, attended with vomitings, and which are so universally met with in Jersey, and often in some of the damper counties of England also, are in truth, only another form of rheumatism: but one in which that disease, instead of being seated in the aponeuroses and ligamentous expansions of the large joints of the limbs and trunk, has its seat in the fibrous capsule of the liver; and hence comes, at length, to involve the other tissues of that gland on whose action the function of the organ depends.

Being well aware of the deep interest attached to an opinion involving a total change in our pathological views of an important class of diseases, I shall submit my views on this matter to the medical world, at greater length and in another form. From the views that I shall there develope, it will be seen, that the derangements in the function of the liver in these diseases, although primarily arising from sub-acute inflammation of the fibrous tissues abovementioned, more immediately result from an extension of the inflammatory action along the dense cellular membrane investing (like an arterial coat) the ramifications of the portal veins; since it is acknowledgedly from these veins (whose functions be it remembered are arterial), that, in the parenchyma of the liver, the bile is ultimately secreted: in the same manner as other

secretions are formed from the capillary extremities of the arteries—the seat of other kinds of inflammation elsewhere.

It is obvious that the views here developed, are of extended application in practice. But here my limits compel me to be silent. For, independently of the medical treatment to be pursued in this class of diseases, we come also more clearly to understand in what way it happens, that dyspeptic disease—the result of derangements of the hepatic system—are so much more generally met with in damp and variable climates, than in those of an opposite character.

Nor is it more difficult hence to explain how the hydropic diathesis should be so prevalent in Jersey, when we reflect that of all the causes of dropsy, none is so universal as that of obstruction in the liver; whether that arises directly from schirrhus (as it is improperly named), resulting from the too abundant use of ardent spirits, or from continued functional derangement of the hepatic viscera, leading ultimately to disorganization of structure.

I pass on to another disease, closely allied to the former of these; and of especial prevalence in these parts. Hypochondriasis, a malady so general among the British residents, results, I am inclined to suspect, less from what may be called the physical condition of the island, than from the habitudes of those who are afflicted with it. In the brief allusion, therefore, which I shall make to it, my observations will assume a moral, rather than a medical character. However, I must not omit to mention, that frequent derangements of the chylopoïetic organs, from the causes already

brought under review, have, it is well established, a very decided influence in depressing the energies of the mind; and in spreading an undue degree of gloom and melancholy at once over the enjoyments of the present, and the prospects of the future.

That hypochondriasis should be a malady extensively spread among the British residents, is not surprising, when we consider the position of that class of society among which the residents are comprehended. Of these, by far the majority are gentlemen belonging to the two branches of the military profession. Having been engaged in their arduous duties,—prosecuted in most instances, for years, in distant climes —most of these gentlemen have returned to their homes with health in some degree impaired, either by the insalubrity of the climates in the southern latitudes —so incongenial to European constitutions—or by the vicissitudes of temperature, to which, in the various service of their country, they have of necessity been oftentimes exposed. Confined now within the narrow limits of an island, which denies them all resort to the healthy and accustomed sports of the field, they find themselves as it were dependent upon each other for their occupation and amusements. The very transition from active and enterprising duties, to luxurious and unsought repose, is of itself a state that demands all the exertions of a well stored and well regulated mind to be easily endurable. Hence the unceasing round of evening parties, protracted often until the dawn of another day; thus breaking in upon the proper hours of rest; exhausting the spirits; and debilitating the physical energies of the body.

The town, too, and neighbourhood of St. Helier, are not the most favourably placed for affording the means of exercise, so necessary for keeping up the vigour of the animal frame, and breaking in upon the monotony of life; and particularly to those whose previous lives have been passed in arms, amid the stirring scenes of the ocean or the camp. The immediate coast is rocky; and of dangerous approach, unless under the guidance of an expert pilot. Hence, few persons keep boats, or even indulge in the pleasant recreation of sailing round the shores. Nor is there any ground, conveniently set apart by the authorities, for the public exercising of the people; where the inhabitants might indulge in those healthy sports, &c., which are so much resorted to in England. Nor is there any public drive; or any gay promenade, offering a temptation to the indolent, to enjoy the pleasures of the open air.

It must however be admitted, that of the facilities which St. Helier does afford, neither the residents nor the other inhabitants appear to take due advantage. The narrow, dirty, and ill-paved streets, appear to be the only resort of fashion; and the Royal Square,—a paved area, one hundred yards by fifty in extent, and hermetically sealed up with houses all around,—is regarded, by the male population, as a second grove of Aacademus.

To all this, however, the pic-nic parties, formed in the summer season, are a laudable exception; for it must be admitted, that in wandering about the shores of the island, the resident takes the most judicious means for dissipating the languor arising from confinement in the drawing-room.

From the details above entered into, the reader will not be surprised to hear that intermittent fever is familiarly known in these parts. The parishes in which it is most frequent are those of Grouville and St. Peter. In the former there is a marshy common two or three miles in circumference; bounded on all sides, except towards the eastern sea (its aspect), by an amphitheatre of hills, abounding in wood: while the latter expands by several marshy valleys, into a wide plain opening towards the southern sea, (its aspect), the valleys being hemmed in by lofty hills. Isolated cases of this fever are also occasionally witnessed in other parishes; particularly after falls of rain, ensuing on long droughts—a circumstance not unusual during the summer and autumn months. The style of the disease is seldom nosologically complete; such, for instance, as we see it in the counties of Lincoln, Lancaster, Cambridge, and Essex: while, in many cases, the disease is imperfectly shadowed forth, not as a genuine idiopathic affection, but only as a condition influencing other diseases that happen to arise; either by exciting quotidian or tertian exacerbations in their symptoms; by increasing the debility beyond what is usual in such affections elsewhere or in other seasons; or by protracting their cure beyond the usual period.

Before quitting this part of my subject, I must not omit to mention, that the "autumnal bilious remittent fever," of British authors, although very unusual, has certainly been seen in Jersey. Three cases of this disease were last autumn brought under my notice by my amiable friend, Mr. Le Gros, surgeon, late of

Trinity. That the disease is unusual, appears from the fact, that any similar cases had never before come under the care of that gentleman; or of any of his medical friends, of whom inquiries on the subject were made. The symptoms in these three cases were all nearly identical.

SECTION III.

Having in the foregoing section adverted to those diseases in which either in their frequency, or severity, the disadvantage is on the side of Jersey, I proceed next (as far as my brief limits will permit) to speak of those in which the disadvantage is on the other side. The diseases which I shall in consequence have occasion to pass rapidly under review, are the following:—

The whole class of phlegmasiæ, or inflammations; the vesaniæ, or mental diseases; apoplexy; and paralysis, arising as its sequel; and lastly, phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption.

It must, I think, be admitted, by all who are competent by education and personal observation to speak on this subject, that, in the class of inflammatory diseases, we here seldom witness that highly acute form which too frequently marks the earlier stages of these in England; and which demands, on the part of the physician, the most prompt and energetic employment of the lancet. In the words of the late Dr. Edwards (an accute observer of disease), "The Jerseyman is unable to bear bleeding." This perhaps arises from the fact, that his diseases do not require it; at least to that extent to which it is so often indispensably neces-

sary to be carried in England. The remark is also equally applicable to the British resident, whose constitution (whether from the effects of his residence in this or in other climates) seems equally unable to bear up in disease, under severe depletion, by large and repeated abstractions of blood. This is doubtless in part attributable to a decided difference in the type of inflammations, as exhibited here and in England. In the latter country, the symptomatic fever that accompanies inflammation is almost universally what is denominated the synocha—a form indeed of fever which, in this day, is rarely or never met with idiopathically. But, as may be understood from the opinions advanced in the preceding section, the accompanying fever in these parts seems, in many respects, to take on the intermittent, the remittent, or the typhöid character: so that the inflammation would often seem to be rather an accidental disease, supervening in the course of such fever. And such doubtless it is, in by far the majority of cases; and hence I would in part explain the inadmissibility of copious and repeated bleedings in the inflammations of Jersey: for it is obvious that under the views and circumstances named, we have, in truth, less to fear from the inflammation, than from the symptomatic fever that accompanies it. But even where the local inflammation is clearly defined, and the symptomatic fever runs high, this soon begins to assume the type of synochus; and warns the physician to pause before resuming the lancet. In short, inflammation here generally assumes the form called congestive or sub-acute—a term first appropriately used by the late distinguished Dr. Armstrong,—and

here peculiarly apposite. I must, however, make an observation that still further elucidates this point: it is, that pure cellular or serous inflammation is less frequent in Jersey than that affecting the mucous and fibrous membranes. The bearing of this remark upon the present subject will be at once understood by the scientific reader. However, it must be confessed that the cause of this singularity is to be in part explained upon the well known pathological principle, "that the severity of acute inflammation is proportional to the constitutional vigour of the sick:" and I believe that, both among the natives and residents of Jersey, we should look in vain for the hale and robust bodily stamina that distinguish the rural population of England.

But as, in the ordinations of Providence, every evil is counterbalanced by its opposing good, so here, that less vigorous enjoyment of rude and boisterous health, is perhaps more than compensated to the Jerseyman, by his comparative immunity from the sanguine diathesis that lays the foundation of inflammatory diseases in their most acute and painful forms; and that leads so often elsewhere to permanent lesions in the moving powers by attacks of paralysis; or to the sudden extinction of life by fits of apoplexy.

On the subject of vesaniæ or mental diseases, it is difficult to arrive at very accurate comparative results. I believe however, that here again the advantage is greatly in favour of Jersey. In the year 1823, I visited the great asylum for the pauper lunatics of the West Riding of the county of York; and comparing the number of inmates (in proportion to the popula-

tions) with the lunatics among the corresponding class of persons in Jersey (as far as that number can be ascertained in a country devoid of all public registration of disease) I have good ground for asserting that the difference in favour of Jersey, is in the proportion of not less than five to two.

For this, many causes contribute,—but especially the uniform and unbroken tranquillity in the life of the Jerseyman,—guarded by the laws, the privileges, and the position of his country, as well against the sudden surprises of fortune, as against the depressing influence of her frowns: such a life, by affording little room for hope, and as little still for despair, limits within their proper sphere, many of the fiercer passions of our nature, which, under gratification, not less than under disappointment, are most dangerous to our tranquillity. The lot of the Jerseyman has been cast in the middle sphere of life; and he is comparatively removed from the operation of those causes that induce pride, ambition, and vanity,—those followers in the train of wealth;—or despair, that seldom fails to wait upon the loss of it.

In the softer passions too, a less perfect state of refinement, proves to the Jerseyman, a protection against the inroads of those tumultuous and ungovernable emotions that have their more powerful sway in a country where the graces, the fine arts, and the lighter sciences, have been all made to bear upon the developement of the human form and character, in shedding over it the last degree of polish and refinement.

It has long been a prevalent opinion among patho-

logists, that mental diseases and scrofula are peculiarly liable to spring up in families as the result of frequent intermarriages. This general position has, I am aware, given rise to the belief, that this island affords proof of the validity of that doctrine. So far, however, as my observation and inquiries extend, I have met with nothing to support such an opinion. The jews and the quakers, whose religious tenets inculcate intermarriages within their own sects, do not afford more instances of mental diseases, than other less scrupulous dogmatists; although I believe that scrofula is very extensively spread among the jews. But scrofula is very general everywhere. Intermarriages of families in Jersey, although of necessity frequent, are I believe not more so than in most of the villages and provincial towns in England. The constant influx of British, that become located in these parts, contributes greatly to limit the extent of these intermarriages among all classes; and to neutralize the evils that would otherwise arise; supposing the position with which I set out to be founded in truth.

Allied, in its pathology, to the two diseases just referred to, is that *opprobrium medicinæ*, "tubercular consumption," of which in the last place I proceed to speak. On its pathology, or treatment, I shall not say one word; since it seems to me useless to insist on these, in speaking of a disease which the greatest authority of our day has declared to be in every instance fatal in its issue. I refer to the opinion of the late Dr. Andrew Duncan, jun., professor in the University of Edinburgh; a man, whose genius may be equalled by others, but whose industry and enthu-

siasm, whose accurate and profound knowledge of every branch of his profession, and whose extensive acquaintance with every art and science, as well as every department of polite and elegant literature, is equalled by no man alive at this day. It was the settled opinion of that gentleman, after years of observation, that genuine tubercular consumption, is in all instances ultimately fatal; but that the period of its fatality may certainly be postponed.

M. Laënnec indeed has detailed a case at full length: and which he thinks he cured. The case however was not of genuine tubercular phthisis, but obviously of that form called apostematous. I believe too, that many cases of the catarrhal phthisis (chronic bronchitis) have recovered. But all this leaves Dr. Duncan's opinion unimpeached. My own experience for nearly twenty years, certainly leaves me with small hopes in this malady from the intervention of art, beyond what is derived from change of climate: and, when we consider that many thousands of deaths from phthisis occurred under the hands of Laënnec, his very assertion, that he once cured a case, tends only to lead our hopes into further despair.

It is to the statistics of this disease, that we must turn for all information that is to be of practical utility in guarding against its insidious approaches. An early removal to another and a more congenial climate, is, I believe, now on all hands admitted to afford the best, and perhaps the only chance of temporary recovery. The ground of this opinion is two-fold. In the first place, it is found by observation, that there are whole races of men in certain parts of the world,

among whom the disease is almost, or altogether unknown. From this, it is justly inferred, that as there is no difference in the physical organization of men sufficient to account for this exemption on the part of some of them, so much immunity from phthisis can result only from the soil and climate of their country. In the next place, it is also an established fact, that persons threatened with consumption, have continued to enjoy good health by a removal to certain other countries; while on returning home, their symptoms have returned also, and pretty uniformly proved fatal. Some very remarkable instances have come to my knowledge, of consumptive persons removing from Scotland to Barbadoes; and who have in consequence had their symptoms suspended for two or three years. On return home, the disease, in a few months, began to develope its character, and soon proved fatal. On the other hand, strange to say, it is found that certain negroes from parts of Africa, where consumption is unknown, have perished of that malady, on being transported as slaves to the islands of the West Indies.

The comparative mortality from phthisis in different countries, is as follows:

Of deaths from all causes, there die of phthisis: In London, 25 per cent; in France, 23 per cent; at St. Petersburgh, 17 per cent; at New York, 17 per cent. In Switzerland, Austria, Prussia, and Belgium, the mortality is not materially different from that in England; i. e. it is 25 per cent., which seems to be its maximum mortality. In England it is calculated that 71,358 persons perish annually of phthisis: and I am

persuaded that it is proportionably still more fatal in some of the more northern counties, than in those from which this calculation is made. In Durham, for instance, where for some years I had charge of a public medical institution, the average of patients usually on the list was 46; and of these, from 5 to 8 were always phthisical: while the mortality was not less than 5 from phthisis, out of 17 cases of death from all the diseases that fell within the province of the physician. It appears then, First, that the disease is most general in the temperate latitudes; and diminishes in fatality as we advance towards the more northern; since, at St. Petersburgh, one fourth of the whole annual mortality is from pleurisies: and one third from fevers. Secondly, that the disease is almost, or altogether, unknown in many parts of Africa, in Egypt, among the Bedouins of the wilderness, and many other races of men.

The practice of removing consumptive persons to foreign climates is of very ancient date. In England, physicians usually recommend the island of Madeira, or the south of France, or the north of Italy; while in Italy, as far back as the time of Celsus, Egypt was the rendezvous of the phthisical. The words of that author are:

"Quod si mali plus est, et vera phthisis est, inter initia protinus occurrere necessarium est: neque enim facile is morbus, cum inveteraverit, evincitur. Opus est, si vires patiuntur, longa navigatione, cœli nutatione, sic ut densius quam id est, ex quo discedit æger, petatur: idioque aptissime Alexandriam ex Italia itur." The author continues, "If weakness prevents this (i. e.

a voyage to Alexandria or some climate where the air is denser—damper—than at home) it will be proper to go by vessel to a shorter distance; or even to be carried in a couch." It was from this that Dr. Beddoes took the hint of his system of treatment.

If medical statistics are to guide us, Celsus was right; for assuredly it is more rational to choose a place where phthisis is unknown, than one in which it is nearly as fatal as in Great Britain.

At Lisbon, phthisis is as fatal as in England. The Italian physicians say the same of Italy: and that the phthisical do not live longer than three or four months. Twenty-five cases out of a hundred deaths were found the average. In Madeira, Dr. Gourlay asserts that whole families perish. Sir Alexander Crichton objects to a removal to Dauphiny, the south of France, and the north of Italy; fearing the cold winds from the mountains. Drs. Southey, Johnson, and Sinclair, condemn Malta, Sicily, and the islands of the Mediterranean. M. Portal does the same with regard to the south of France; and Sir Charles Morgan as to north of Italy: while Herault (the beau ideal of a fine climate) and of which Montpelier is capital, is equally condemned as a retreat for the consumptive by Dr. Hawkins. Finally, Dr. Pugh asserts that Nice and Naples are no better than the rest; and Dr. Renton says that, in Madeira, out of 47 cases, 34 died within 3 months; 10 after leaving the island: of the other 3 the result was unknown. Of all the parts of England, Penzance is the most eligible. The temperature averages four degrees higher than that of London.

A recent traveller in the East thus speaks on this

subject. "Alexandria is indeed at all times excessively damp; the atmosphere is saturated with a saline vapour, which condenses on the walls and furniture of the houses in small crystals of nitre muriate of soda, and muriate of ammonia; the soil is everywhere coated with these saline particles; and although it is quite impossible to keep any articles made of iron, free from rust, yet the constant breathing of this saline atmosphere does not appear to be prejudicial to health; diseases of the lungs are unknown. I have not seen one case of pulmonary consumption among the Arabs."

Now we cannot but be struck with the resemblance between this account of the climate of Alexandria and that of Jersey, as seen in many of those particulars detailed in the preceding pages. In temperature, indeed, the difference is marked; but it may be doubted whether the British constitution can well sustain without injury (especially among delicate and susceptible invalids) a higher degree than that of Jersey, without being liable to some one or other of those maladies so fatal in Egypt and the more southern latitudes: while it is of the utmost moment that the sick should not be transported to parts where they are removed beyond the reach of all those English comforts, and conveniences, that are no longer found among a semi-barbarous, or scarcely even among a foreign people.

The cause of the dampness of Alexandria is attributed to the prevalence of winds from the Mediterranean sea driving on the clouds for months towards the mountains of the Thebäid. These fall in the autumn,

and occasion the overflow of the Nile, and the consequent dampness, by evaporation, of the hot air. In Jersey, the winds are equally prevalent from across the Atlantic ocean; and they are equally laden with moisture and with saline particles; while the climate is sufficiently warm, during the prevalence of those winds that blow from the Gulph stream and heated currents of the Atlantic, to cause constant evaporation from the bare rocks and sands at low tide (as explained above), and to keep the atmosphere in a state of almost continual dampness. Since then it is to the constant inhalation of a damp and saline atmosphere that the freedom of the Egyptians from consumption is attributed, might not the same cause be expected to produce the same result in Jersey? and might we not infer, a priori, that Jersey (at least as compared with England) would exhibit a comparative immunity from phthisis? And such in truth I believe to be the case in a marked degree,—in a degree indeed beyond what I dare at this moment undertake positively to mention: for, from the circumstance of there being no public registration of disease, any statement on the subject can only be at present founded on individual experience. But without speaking positively to the fact, I have strong ground for believing, that the proportion of cases of genuine consumption here, as compared with most of the English counties, is not one half, or even a third; and that of these, by far the majority are found among the British, who have come to the island with a strong hereditary tendency to phthisis; or with the actual development of some of its pathognomonic symptoms.

I shall only say farther, that I believe the climate of Jersey to be the most suitable, for those labouring under pulmonic diseases, of any in Europe: while for those with hæpatic derangements, it is perhaps the least so: for, where so many learned persons are agreed, no doubt can remain as to the validity of their testimony respecting the ineligibility of most or all of those places in the continent to which consumptive persons have been long recommended to resort. I believe Jersey to be preferable to any of them; since (besides the other causes abovementioned) I know of no place where the same equality of temperature is preserved throughout the whole year. It is sufficiently cool to prevent that exhaustion to which invalids are subject in more southern countries; while the average warmth may be fairly stated at from 4 to 6 degrees beyond that of London. The words of the poet are here something more than a mere poetical flight.

Hic ver perpetuum, atque alienis mensibus æstas.

On a subject so deeply interesting as this; and in which the results of my observation are as remarkable in themselves as they were unanticipated by me, I should not have felt warranted in trusting to my own experience only. I have therefore availed myself on this matter of statistical inquiry, of the information which I could collect from other sources: and among these, the following communication from a gentleman of great accuracy of observation, and upon whose memory, in the absence of more authentic documents, considerable reliance may be placed, will be seen to bear out the statement made in a foregoing page.

Le recteur de ——— présente ses complimens à Monsieur le Docteur ———, et lui annonce qu'il a parcouru le régistre des enterremens pour quatre ans, et y a trouvé, autant qu'il peut se rappeller, les noms de 28 personnes qui sont mortes de la consomption durant ce tems lá.

Ce 7 Mars, 1834.

Now in the parish alluded to, the average number of deaths is 40 per annum. This would give us in four years, 160 deaths: of which the 28 were from consumption. But when we reflect that this term is applied to all cases of atrophy, tabes, and general wasting away of the body in the latter stages of all diseases (and it is then chiefly that the clergy see the sick) we cannot reckon more than half of the alleged number to have been cases of genuine tubercular phthisis. However, counting them at 20, we have then the proportion of 1 out of 8 deaths,—which is little more than half the number that occurs both in Great Britain, and every other part of Europe.

M. S.

Before dismissing the subject of disease, I will occupy a page or two promiscuously, in brief allusions to a few other maladies.

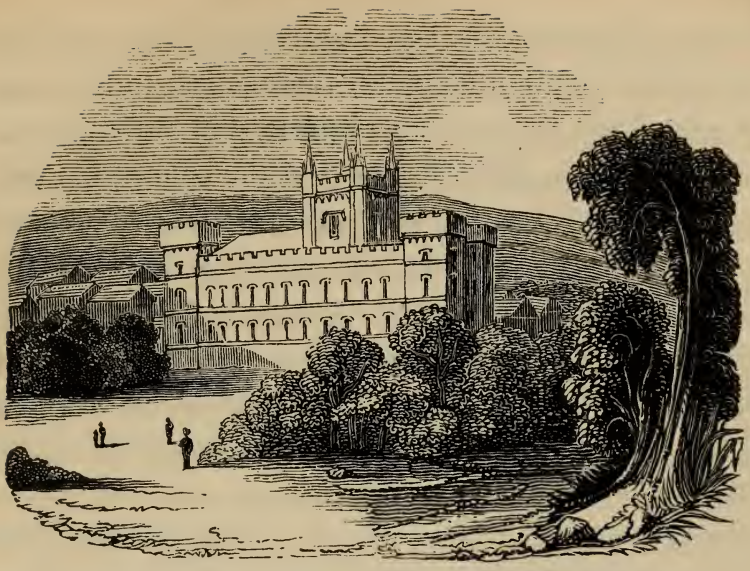
Diseases of the skin are very frequent in Jersey. To the production of these, among the poor, the action of a saline atmosphere, inattention to cleanliness, and the effects of an impoverished diet, equally contribute. Instances of these affections come daily under observation. Among the more frequent are those of the kinds called impetiginous, porriginous, and pruriginous. I was lately consulted, by a middle-aged gentleman,

in a case of prurigo, or itching, in which the sensation was so intolerable as to make life a burthen. Night or day, there was no remission; and such was the urgency of the symptoms, that they could only be allayed by fomenting the part affected with lotions of pure brandy. The disease had continued for years, despite of all the efforts of the faculty to relieve it. Scabies, or the disease familiarly known as the itch, is also common, and sometimes inveterate. Sycosis, and even lupus, are occasionally seen; and some of the diseases, peculiarly incident to women, seem to prevail here extensively. The climate is relaxing; and such cases recover slowly,—and only after a long and tedious convalescence. Erysipelas is frequent, affecting chiefly the head: and it occasionally proves fatal, by metastasis to the brain. I have also seen one case of diffuse cellular inflammation.

Among children, diseases seem less inflammatory in their type: and are less pointed towards the pulmonary organs than in England: and, upon the whole, hydrocephalus, or water in the brain, although far from rare, is still, less general in these parts.

It was formerly an opinion current among physicians, that urinary calculi prevailed much more in the cider counties (as Hereford and Devonshire) than in other parts of England: and that such beverage was consequently favourable to the generation of those concretions. If that opinion had not been already exploded, Jersey would have controverted it. The universal liquor among the islanders is cider: and yet lithonomy has been performed only once by an able army surgeon, who has practised his profession exten-

sively in Jersey for the last thirty years. Nor has that gentleman heard of the operation having been performed by any other surgeon. I think it however not unlikely, that other instances of calculus, demanding the skill of the surgeon, may have occurred during that period: but that the great London operators may have been resorted to, as being more conversant, by daily practice, in the use of the knife: and especially as, both in the medical and surgical diseases of these islands, the faculty of London have long come in for no inconsiderable share of practice; and particularly of late years, since the communication by water has been facilitated and extended.



Elizabeth College.

GUERNSEY.

CHAPTER I.

Approach—Town of St. Peter's Port—Streets and Buildings—Villas—The Fish Market and other Markets—Prices of Provisions—Elizabeth College, and its Advantages—The Hospital and Poor-House—The Harbour—Castle Cornet.

I now proceed to speak of Guernsey; and afterwards of those smaller dependences,—Alderney, Serk, and Herm,—which, together with Jersey, form the Channel Islands.

It is obvious, that in speaking of Guernsey, my observations cannot extend to the same length as those which I have already offered on Jersey; not

because Guernsey is less interesting; nor, because (with the exception of trade) there is less to tell; but because there is, in many respects,—in the aspect of the two islands, in the manners of the country people, in their agriculture, in their climate and productions, in their civil government,—so great a similarity, that after having exhausted all these subjects as regards one of the islands, it would be impossible without repetition, to dwell at the same length, on the other island. With these preliminary observations, I proceed.

In approaching Guernsey, the shores of the island do not possess the same attractions as the sister island; being altogether, more sterile, and offering less variety. St. Peter's Port, viewed from the sea, is greatly more imposing, than the chief town of Jersey. The latter, as the reader has already been told, lies on a plain: the former, covers the side of a hill,—encircles its base, and crowns its ridge; so that it shews itself to the best advantage. Little or nothing of it is lost to the eye; and both in extent, and seeming elegance, the stranger, in approaching Guernsey, would give to St Peter's Port, a decided preference over St. Helier.

Like many more important places than St. Peter's Port, these appearances are deceptive; and all the apparent attractions of the town disappear, when one steps on shore. I should say, that the first impressions of St. Peter's Port, are decidedly unfavourable. We perambulate narrow, steep, and crooked streets, flanked by substantial indeed, but old-looking dusky houses: and walk as long as we may, we reach no

open space, where we may stop and look about us. I speak at present of the town only, not of the environs, which offer a most agreeable contrast to the town. The advantage which St. Helier possesses over St. Peter's Port is this,—that, in the former, the houses of the gentry are thrown into rows and streets, and form a part of the town; whereas, the better houses in Guernsey, are not within the town; but are detached residences: and herein consist the great beauty of the environs of St. Peter's Port, which just as far exceed the expectations of the traveller, as the town falls below them.

Walk from St. Peter's Port, in what direction you may, — indications of wealth and refinement united, are everywhere apparent. I do not mean to pass any encomium on the architectural beauty of the Guernsey villas; which are, with few exceptions, constructed without much regard to architectural taste; but they are uniformly respectable in appearance: there is nothing pert, and cit-like, about them: they are generally something beyond boxes; and are evidently the dwellings of persons who possess, at least, a competency.

Nor is it the houses alone, that arrest one, and lead to these conclusions. With scarcely an exception, every detached house has some pleasure ground,—not merely a round plot, with its circular gravel walk, its little labyrinth of evergreens, and its border of box or daises; but a respectable sized inclosure,—a miniature lawn,—always in excellent order,—big enough for a promenade,—and, very frequently, with a circular carriage road. As we get farther from the town,

these villas become larger,—some of them assuming the appearance of English country seats; and evidently, the residences of persons of some considerable fortune.

The environs of St. Peter's Port have nothing of a foreign aspect about them; they are decidedly English: and greatly resemble the outskirts of some of the English cathedral cities. It is evident at a glance, that the houses have not been put down as a speculation for letting, wherever a man chanced to have a few square yards of land; but that the sites have been selected; and that the proprietor, or architect, has not been compelled to cut his coat according to his cloth: he has evidently had a few yards to spare. But I have been led insensibly from the town, to its environs; and so reserving for another chapter, some more detailed account of the latter, I return to Peter's Port, to speak of all that is deserving of notice in it.

The town of St. Peter's Port, contains, like every other town, better and worse quarters; but until we get to the outskirts, bad is the best. I have no intention of giving any detailed description of the town; but there are some of its public institutions, and a few of its buildings, deserving of particular notice, and of high commendation. It is probable, that if a stranger were to ask a Guernseyman, what he ought especially to see,—the answer might be "our fish market;" and it is unquestionably true, that the fish market of Guernsey, is not only an object worthy of being seen, but both in its conveniences, and in the abundance of its supplies, is not excelled, if indeed equalled, by any metropolitan market of Europe.

A stranger entering the Guernsey fish market on a Saturday morning, at a good fish season, would set down the people of Guernsey, as a fish-eating people; for he finds himself in a spacious arcade, no less than a hundred and ninety feet in length, and broad, and lofty in proportion; and sees the double row of marble slabs, which extend the whole length of the building, covered with fish: and it is probable, that if he visit the market on the afternoon of the same day, the immense display of the morning, will have dwindled into a few solitary whitings, and shell fish, scattered here and there. The consumption, therefore, seems quite equal to the supply; but indeed, an abundant supply, and cheap prices, necessarily create consumers. This building is entirely new; the interior is light and airy; the slabs,—chiefly of variegated marble,—are each supplied with abundance of fresh water; and the whole arrangements, as well as the variety, abundance, and excellence of the fish displayed, at once impress the stranger with high, and I believe, just notions of the public spiritedness of a people, who have taken so much pains to provide a fit receptacle for one single article of human sustenance. The fish generally found in the Guernsey market, are nearly the same as those which I have enumerated when speaking of Jersey, with some kinds of shell fish superadded; but the difference consists in the abundance of the supply,—especially of the finer sorts of fish,—turbot, cod, mullet, and bass. The price varies much with the season; but at tolerably plentiful times, the following prices are not much wide of the truth. Red mullet from 4*d.* to 6*d.* a piece; grey mullet 3*d.* to 5*d.*;

john dorey 5*d.* to 7*d.*; plaice 1*s.* to 2*s.*; brill 2*s.* to 3*s.*; soles 2*s.* to 3*s.* per pair; turbot 10*d.* to 1*s.* per lb.

The other markets adjoin the fish market; but these are not so remarkable. They are however, commodious, and suitable for the purpose. Prices are generally higher in this island than in Jersey: indeed, I do not think they differ materially from London prices. Beef is sold at from 7*d.* to 8*d.*; mutton 8*d.* to 9*d.*; veal 7*d.* to 8*d.*; pork 4½*d.* to 5*d.* The poultry consumed in Guernsey is almost wholly French, very little country produce being brought to market. Turkeys sell at from 3*s.* to 4*s.*; fowls 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per couple; geese 2*s.* 6*d.*; Guernsey eggs 8*d.* to 1*s.* per doz.; French eggs 5*d.* to 6*d.* per doz.

I do not consider the supply of fruit and vegetables at all on a par with the Jersey market: and the prices, I found somewhat higher. In the neighbourhood of the market a good public library and reading room, invite the stranger, and opposite to it, are the assembly rooms. But to these, I shall afterwards have occasion to return when I speak of society,—its tastes, and usages.

The only two institutions which I think of sufficient importance to warrant me in entering into details, are Elizabeth College; and the public hospital. With these, I must occupy a few pages, because both of them are institutions, which confer respectability on the island; and which, in their objects, as well as in their management, deserve to be spoken of in terms of the highest commendation.

Elizabeth College, is not only a noble institution, but an attractive object. It is situated on an elevation,

behind the town, with a spacious area around it, ornamentally laid out. The building itself, is decidedly handsome; and from its extent alone, would command attention. Its architecture is mixed; as a whole, regular,—and yet, with a monastic air about it: and the interior is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was intended.

This seminary of education owes its origin to letters patent of queen Elizabeth, by which, in the year 1563, eighty quarters of wheat rent were assigned for the endowment of a school. From the date of its foundation, up to its erection into a college, this institution existed in little more than in name; but to the honour of the States of Guernsey, means were adopted in the year 1824, for placing this establishment on a more efficient footing. This has accordingly been done, and Elizabeth College, under its present management, offers advantages for the instruction of youth, not perhaps to be found in any public seminary elsewhere. This, I admit, is an assertion, that needs to be supported; but I think proofs of its truth, are not difficult to be found. I ground its superior advantages on the wide circle of knowledge which its plan embraces, and which appears to be better fitted for the purposes of life, than the systems pursued in the great seminaries of England, or even in the exclusive universities. A deep knowledge of Latin prosody, and Greek accentuation, goes but a very little way in the world now-a-days; nor will even the mathematical knowledge of a senior wrangler, be much more than the passport to a fellowship. In fact, the education that may have suited the eighteenth century, cannot be well adapted to the nineteenth.

The college education of this establishment, includes Hebrew, Greek, Latin, divinity, history, geography, French and English literature, mathematics and arithmetic. Instruction in these branches of education is secured by the college fee of 12*l.* per annum. But besides these, other useful branches of education are taught by approved masters within the college, to those who desire more than the regular college education. These branches are, drawing and surveying, the Spanish, Italian, and German languages, music, fencing, and drilling.

It will be conceded, I think, that the plan of education is sufficiently extensive; and the only question therefore is, whether those to whom the duties of instruction are confided, are worthy of the trust. That they are so, I think we have the strongest possible guarantees. The direction of the establishment is vested in individuals who are either directors, in virtue of their holding the highest offices in the island,—or are selected from among the inhabitants, by the lieutenant-governor or by the States; and as all of the individuals in the management, are interested in the prosperity of the island, there is every guarantee for a strict impartiality, and wise selection, in the appointment of those to whom the duties of the establishment are confided. I will mention the names of the four principal masters. The Rev. William Lewis Davies, M. A., late fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, principal of the college. The Rev. Charles Joseph Belin, B. A., late fellow of New College, Oxford, and B. és L., of the University of Paris, vice-principal. The Rev. Daniel Dobrée, M. A., of Pem-

broke College, Oxford, first classical master. The Rev. Charles Tayler, B. A. of Downing College, Oxford, master of the mathematical school. I believe too, I may say truly, that the masters of the other branches, and especially of the modern languages,—that indispensable branch of education,—are all individuals of the most undisputed competency; and besides the guarantees I have mentioned, we have this additional one,—that there is a public examination at Midsummer, conducted by two masters of arts of the university of Oxford, selected for that purpose, by the heads of Exeter, Jesus, and Pembroke colleges.

As illustrative of the system pursued, I will here introduce an extract from the address of the vice-principal. "The course of education, beginning with the rudiments of grammar, advances to the highest classics studied in English public schools. Next to divinity (in which is included, if desired, the study of the Hebrew language), the classics and mathematics are considered the most important branch of the system, as qualifying more immediately for the universities; but the distribution of the school hours is so arranged, that every scholar may, without interfering with the above pursuits, acquire an adequate knowledge of commercial arithmetic, and such proficiency in the French language as will fit him for future situations in active life, independently of the learned professions. The opportunity of combining with these studies, those of other modern languages, military and civil architecture, drawing and surveying, affords many additional advantages, particularly if a

scholar should afterwards be removed to either of the royal academies at Woolwich or Portsmouth, or to one of the colleges at Sandhurst, Hayleybury, or Addiscombe. The system is so modified, as fairly to meet the exigencies of individual cases."

There are several exhibitions not requiring entrance at any university; besides medals and prizes for general proficiency, composition, and good conduct.

But I must not dismiss the subject, without adverting to the economy of an education in Elizabeth College. The whole of the college dues amount, as I have already said, to only 12*l.*; and the extra branches which I have enumerated, are, most of them, 2*l.* 2*s.* per quarter. For pupils from England, I can scarcely conceive a more advantageous union of education and economy, than may be found in Elizabeth College. Board and tuition with the principal of the college, is 60*l.* per annum, including the 12*l.* of college dues; with the vice-principal, 50*l.*; and with the mathematical master, 50*l.* Contrast the advantages offered by an institution of this nature, and its many guarantees, with those comparatively irresponsible and unguaranteed "establishments,"—which too often deserve to be considered but as trading speculations.

And yet, singular enough it is, that this responsible and guaranteed institution, should enjoy but a very moderate share of popularity in Guernsey. The fact, however, may be accounted for without difficulty. The inhabitants have too long been accustomed to the loose system of the public "seminaries," to be reconciled to the strict impartiality which obtains in Elizabeth College,—where the patronage, or perhaps even

the position in society, of a relative or parent, fails to produce its effect. At no distant period, however, Elizabeth College must overcome opposition in Guernsey; and be universally acknowledged to be, what it certainly is, an institution admirably fitted for the wants of the age.

I make no apology for the length of these details. The existence even, of Elizabeth College, Guernsey, is scarcely known in England; and in publishing the merits of this institution, I think I perform only an act of justice to the college; while at the same time, I do a good service to those at a distance, who may benefit by the advantages which it offers.

There is another institution in Guernsey, which deserves notice,—the hospital.

This establishment, so creditable to Guernsey, and standing out so prominently in relief, by the side of the ill-regulated public establishments of the sister island, has been in operation since the year 1743. The establishment is improperly named an hospital. It is more; it is a poor-house,—a refuge for the destitute,—a work-house,—and, for the young, a seminary for instruction.

The system pursued in this institution, is in accordance with the most approved systems of modern times. The expenses of the institution, are partly defrayed by the labour of those residing in it; all the in-door work is performed by the inmates; and the most perfect regularity, order, and cleanliness, pervade every part of the establishment. There are schools for both the boys and girls, in which an education is received, suited to the circumstances in which the individuals

may afterwards be placed. Attached to the institution, there is also a chapel, to the duties of which, a chaplain is appointed, with a salary of 30*l.* The medical department also, is under the very best and most liberal regulations. The average number of inmates for the year 1832, was 79 men, 130 women, 55 boys, and 39 girls; and the expense of housekeeping during the same year, was 2217*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*, an expenditure that pretty clearly demonstrates the liberal system pursued towards the inmates of the establishment: and when we add to this sum upwards of 1000*l.* more, for improvements, and occasional expenses, we shall have no contemptible specimen of the public spirit and humanity of the people of Guernsey. The following ten items of house expenditure indicate the scale of comfort which prevails. 14,526 lbs. of beef; 4084 lbs. of bacon and pork; 471 quarters of wheat; 115½ hhds. of beer; 3964 lbs. of butter; 1400 fagots; 2562 gallons of milk; 1696 bushels of potatos; 270 lbs. of tea: and 991 lbs. of sugar. These are minute, and to some may appear trifling details; but I question if a traveller can be too minute, in all that regards the social condition of a people.

The harbour of St. Peter's Port, deserves no particular mention. It is small; but large enough, I believe, for the trade, which is very unimportant compared with that of Jersey. There has been some talk of constructing a new harbour, accessible, from its depth of water, at all times; but it is generally thought, that the undertaking would not repay the cost. There is no doubt, however, that during the

violent storms from the south-west, which so often sweep into the Channel, carrying with them a tremendous sea from the south Atlantic, the north coast of Guernsey affords a convenient shelter; and that a safe and commodious harbour, accessible at all times, would attract many vessels. Even now, as many as seventy sail of French vessels, bound chiefly from the southern ports with cargoes of wine, have been seen at one time, availing themselves of the shelter afforded by the Guernsey coast.

In approaching Guernsey, Castle Cornet forms a striking object. Like Elizabeth Castle, Jersey, it is built on a rock, at a distance of somewhat less than half a mile from the shore; but is not, like Elizabeth Castle, accessible at low water. It is not so picturesque an object as Elizabeth Castle; because it is not, like the latter, flanked by other rocks than that upon which it is built: and the folly of white-washing part of it, has greatly injured its naturally venerable appearance. It is difficult to distinguish between Elizabeth Castle, and the rock upon which it is built; but the renovators of Castle Cornet have taken care to make the line distinct enough.

I have nothing more to say of the town of St. Peter's Port; and shall now carry the reader into the country.

CHAPTER II.

The Environs of St. Peter's Port—Gardens and Floriculture.

Although I have already incidentally spoken of the immediate environs of St. Peter's Port, I have not yet done sufficient justice to them. Around St. Helier, Jersey, nature has done more than art: around St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, their claims are at least equal. The country is less rich, less diversified: but it is everywhere made the most of. The villas and cottage residences are not perhaps so numerous; but they are larger, handsomer, and in better repair; and look like the houses of people to whom the island is home, and who must needs have a house, rather than of persons who have come to the island in search of a house. Wood is not so abundant in the neighbourhood of Peter's Port, but it is better disposed: and the environs being more elevated than the country round St. Helier, finer views are commanded from many points.

There is an area in the neighbourhood of the town, called the New Ground,—a fine level grass field, surrounded by double rows of trees, which form almost as fine an arcade as the *Champs Elysées*. This was intended as a promenade for the inhabitants, who do not however choose to promenade there; but in truly English taste, prefer the dusty roads. There is no

doubt however, that while in foreign countries, the chief object of the promenade, is to see and be seen,—in England, and among English people, other objects are superadded, — health and exercise. To take a walk, in the English sense, is a thing unknown in most parts of the continent; but as this is really the intention of an English-woman, when she puts on her bonnet and shawl, the preference of the road over the more restricted promenade, is sufficiently accounted for. But, to return to the New Ground, Guernsey,—although the traveller need not go there to see the inhabitants, he ought certainly to spend half an hour there some fine sunny summer's evening, for the sake of the view to be enjoyed from it. A sea view is the most beautiful, when it is not all sea; and in this respect, Guernsey has the advantage of Jersey: for the islands of Serk, Herm, and Jethou, which are comprehended in all the views from the neighbourhood of the town, add great variety and interest to the prospect.

The beauty not only of the immediate, but of the remoter environs of St. Peter's Port, is greatly enhanced by the numerous gardens, and by the passion for flowers, everywhere prevalent amongst all classes in Guernsey. The superiority of Guernsey over Jersey, in the greater excellence of its gardens, and in the more successful, and more universal cultivation of flowers, does not certainly depend upon any superiority of soil or climate,—the latter of which indeed, is in favour of Jersey; but is to be attributed solely, to greater pains taken in floriculture. Nor is it only, in the larger gardens,—to which a stranger is generally

conducted, as being among the lions of Guernsey, that one is charmed with the beauty and variety of flowers; but in the little plots of garden ground also, which are attached to the smaller country houses, and even cottages. Noble hydrangeas,—fine varieties of the pink, and healthy bushy geraniums, all reared in the open air, overtop the little walls, or grace the doorway.

I will enumerate a few of the flowers and shrubs which are successfully reared in Guernsey; and for this enumeration I am chiefly indebted to the observations of Dr. M'Culloch, communicated in a paper addressed to the Caledonian Horticultural Society. Dr. M. sets out with saying, "that the variety and the splendour of the productions of Guernsey, give a character to its horticulture which is very impressive to an English visitor, and which excites surprise, when compared with the very slight advantages of climate which this island from its geographical difference of position, might be supposed to possess."

The first flower which I shall notice, is the amaryllis, more commonly known, at least in the Channel Islands, by the name of the Guernsey lily. This beautiful plant is cultivated in Jersey, as well as in Guernsey; but it is in Guernsey that by far the finest specimens are seen. This flower is a native of Japan "a country," says Dr. Macullock, "possessing such variety of climate, that it might well afford plants suited to any latitude." The same gentleman also says, "In Guernsey, every gardener, and almost every petty farmer who has a bit of garden ground appropriates a patch to this favoured root; and the

few hundreds of flowers which are brought to England in the season, or which are kept for ornament in the island, are the produce of thousands of roots. The average rate of flowering is about fifteen or eighteen in a hundred." The same frosts that have no effect on the hardy geraniums, injure the roots of the Guernsey lily.

The magnolia grandiflora, is another plant which is very successfully cultivated in Guernsey—flowering both regularly and luxuriantly; but which, excepting in parts of Cornwall, cannot generally be depended upon in England. To this, may be added, the hydrangea hortensis, the fuchsia coccinea, the geranium zonule, the inquinaus radule glutinosum,—all of which, in the luxuriance of their summer vegetation, bear testimony alike, to the excellence of the climate, and the taste of the inhabitants. I have seen splendid specimens of the fuchsia in the Guernsey gardens,—some of them, I am certain, from six to eight feet high, and ten or twelve in circumference, and covered over with their beautiful pendent blossoms, many of them an inch and a half long. I had in my own garden in Jersey, a fuchsia not much inferior to these in size, which was covered with flowers so late as the month of November.

One of the most successful plants in these islands, and especially in Guernsey, owing to the superior pains bestowed there on its cultivation, is the verbena triphylla: I have seen it almost a tree in Guernsey, reaching to nearly twenty feet in height, and reminding me of the gardens of the Alcazar in Seville, where I saw it for the first time in perfection. I had

also fine healthy specimens of this plant in my garden in Jersey, but not at all equal to those I have seen in Guernsey. Dr. Maculloch says of this beautiful shrub: "Its growth is indeed so luxuriant, that it is necessary to keep it from becoming troublesome, by perpetual cutting; fresh shoots fourteen feet in length, resembling those of the osier willow, being annually produced."

Many other rare and beautiful plants which require artificial heat in England, grow in Guernsey out of doors: among others, the celtis macrantha, — and both varieties of camellia japonica, which sometimes attains the height of twenty feet. I noticed on the 24th November last, a camellia japonica, nineteen feet in height, with a spread of thirteen feet, and with a hundred and fifty full-blown flowers on it, besides innumerable buds. Let me add to the list, some species of the olia; many species of the cistus,—the crispifolius, and ormosus, among others; the yucca or yoicca aloifolia; the dracocephalium canadriense; the jasminum azoricum; the nerium oleander—the pride of more southern climes; the clethra arborea; the daphne odorata; the mumulus glutinosus; the correa alba; the melaleuca hypericifolia, gorteria regeus; many of the proteas species, and a number of the genera ixia and erica,—and to this captivating enumeration may be added the myrtle, which, indeed, I have already celebrated, in speaking of Jersey, and which defies the utmost severity of winter in either of the islands.

Dr. Maculloch says, "Even the green-house cultivation is influenced by the climate. It is well known

that the heliotropium peruvianum, in England, is limited in its growth, becoming woody and feeble, after it has attained a certain age. In Guernsey, on the contrary, if planted in the bed of earth in the house, although no artificial heat be applied, it soon fills the whole space, running over the bed, and striking fresh roots from its branches, as it advances."

Aloes have also been known to thrive well, and to perfect their blossoms in Guernsey, without any particular care being taken in their cultivation.

It may easily be believed then, than an hour spent in one of the finer gardens of Guernsey, is no inconsiderable enjoyment; for it is not only the painted beauties that attract the eye,—the delicate tints of the amaryllis,—the graceful oleander,—the blushing fuchsia,—the frail and lovely varieties of cistus; but the scent also, that rises from the myrtles, the verbena, the daphne, and the heliotrope. Nor is the attraction of the garden confined to these rarer flowers. The same passion that rears the exotic, fosters also, the more common flower; and nowhere accordingly have I seen, in so much perfection, the varieties of the carnation, the dahlia, the tulip, the hyacinth, and the many other beautiful and sweet-smelling flowers, that in greater or less perfection are found in the English garden.

Dr. Maculloch, in the paper to which I have alluded, extols also, the fruits of Guernsey. I believe however, Jersey has the advantage of Guernsey in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Nothing that promises to be pecuniarily advantageous, is likely to be overlooked in Jersey; and this, coupled with a

superior climate, cannot fail in its effects. There are better figs, and more of them in Guernsey, than in Jersey; but the reason is, that the fruit is but little cultivated in Jersey. The superiority of Jersey, is seen in the cultivation of the melon, some species of which, are raised without glass in Guernsey; but the romana, which requires greater heat, is not so successful there, as in Jersey. Well-sized orange trees growing in the open air, are seen in Guernsey; but to produce fruit, they require the shelter of a wall; and in winter, the protection of mats. But indeed, if the success of the orange, and of many other fruits and flowers of southern latitudes, depends more upon the absence of winter cold, than upon the presence of great summer heat, there is no reason why these should not be successful in the Channel Islands. During the two winters that I passed in them, there was no weather that in England would be called winter weather. I have experienced much greater cold, and seen the thermometer much lower for days together, in the most southern parts of France, and even in the south-east of Spain, than I have ever felt or seen in Jersey.

Dr. Maculloch states, as a fact of some importance, the naturalization in Guernsey, of the canna indica, a native of very warm climates; and which has become so thoroughly habituated to the climate, as to prove a weed in the gardens which it has occupied; and upon this, he makes the following sensible remarks: "Abundant experience," says the doctor, "has shewn, that the propagation of a plant, by cuttings, or offsets, has little or no effect in changing its constitution;

and the instance above cited equally shews, that the seed will produce a hardier progeny, which, in time, may possibly be habituated to bear all the range of temperature which the globe affords. To carry this speculation, however, into practice, it is evident, that in most cases, the attempt will be unavailing, if the transition is violent. Yet it is probable, that in the immense number of untried plants, many might be found, which, like the canna indica, would even bear a change as great as that now mentioned. But to pursue this system of naturalization with any great hope of success, it would be necessary that the transition should be more gradual, and that the transplantation should be carried from a hot climate through some intermediate one, to our own less genial shores. The peculiarity of the climate of Guernsey would afford us ground to hope, that it possesses many of the requisite properties; and that it would form a step required in this experiment. These considerations should stimulate us to make trials, which, in their results, may possibly prove useful, as well as ornamental. Many of the fruits which are now too tender to bear our climate, might thus be made to produce seeds, which should give us products equal in goodness to the original, and of a hardier character. It is not unlikely, for example, that a variety of melon from seeds produced in Guernsey, might be taught to grow without the aid of glass, in England. Perhaps even, the caper, or the orange, might be naturalized through the same medium. That process which has naturalized the canna indica, might go far to put us in possession of many other desirable objects, at least in cases when,

like the melon, the generations can be rapidly repeated, and when the produce goes hand in hand with each successive generation. Thus, possibly even the pine of Norfolk Island might become a British tree, although many years' toil would be requisite to attain the end."

I cannot introduce better than at the conclusion of this chapter, in which I have been speaking of the natural productions which are matured in the open air in Guernsey, a short sketch of the climate of the island, with its effect on human health and life,—the data for which, have been furnished to me by my much esteemed friend, Mr. S. E. Hoskins, whose high and acknowledged attainments, and extensive medical practice, have well qualified him for the performance of this act of kindness.

"The climate of Guernsey bears a great affinity to that of the south-west coast of England: Dr. Clark considers it as intermediate between that, and the western parts of France. There is no doubt, however, that it is milder than the latter in winter, and considerably warmer at all seasons, than the southern coast of Devonshire, without however being more humid,—a character which it has rather undeservedly acquired. The atmosphere is not so confined, nor has it the 'aguish disposition' of Hastings—and whilst the climate is as mild and quite as salubrious as that of the Isle of Wight, the island is preferable to Under-cliff, on account of the superior accommodations obtainable for invalids. The temperature is subject to frequent, but not extensive variations; the thermometer seldom rises above 80 degrees of Faren-

heit, seldom falls as low as 37 degrees, and never remains long stationary, at the freezing point. Taking one year with another, the mean annual temperature may be quoted at three degrees lower than that of Jersey.

" The heat of summer is tempered by a gentle sea breeze; and like all other maritime situations, the cold of winter is mitigated by caloric, imparted to the atmosphere from the surrounding ocean. Frosts are neither severe nor durable:—indeed whole winters often pass away without a single fall of snow. The luxuriance of the various exotics which flourish unguarded, at all seasons in the open air, afford evidence of the mildness of the climate. The white double rose camellia, blooms abundantly in the month of November; and orange trees endure the winter, with only a slight occasional covering of matting.

" During the spring, easterly winds generally prevail; while west, are the prevailing winds during the rest of the year, as the shorn aspect of the trees, in that direction of the coast, indicates. The frequent transitions of temperature before alluded to, and the prevalence of keen winds in the early part of the year, render that season trying to persons whose lungs are susceptible to such influences. But even in so small an island, differences of climate are to be met with.

" The prevailing disease in Guernsey, is that proteiform malady dyspepsia, popularly misnamed 'biliousness.' It affects the peasantry more generally than the town residents, in consequence no doubt of their meagre diet,—their vegetable soup,—their tea, fish,

barley bread, and cider. The inhabitants, however, are notwithstanding a hardy, though not apparently, a robust race; and generally attain a good old age. Among the children of the lower classes in town, marasmus is common; and although healthy during infancy, they become puny in childhood. On the whole, Guernsey must be considered a healthy island, exempt from endemics, and rarely affected with epidemic diseases; and when they shew themselves, their type is generally mild. Scarlet fever, measles, hooping cough, &c., are more tractable, and certainly less fatal than in England. Malignant diseases of a specific character, and acute inflammatory affections, are comparatively rare. During spring, sub-acute bronchitis, and in the autumnal season, bowel complaints, are frequent; the latter, doubtless partly owing to the quantity of fruit grown in the island, and imported from France. The more aggravated forms of fever are seldom seen, the prevailing type being the simple continued, or remittent, accompanied by sub-acute inflammation of the mucous membranes; which tissue is much more liable to derangement than the serous. Intermittent fever, as an endemic, has been unknown for a number of years, though formerly prevalent in certain districts. It is a singular fact that its disappearance is co-eval with the recovery of a considerable tract of land by the exclusion of an arm of the sea, in the lower parishes, where the occasional appearance of the remittent fever before alluded to, has superseded ague;—these fevers, however, only occur when great heat has succeeded a long continuance of rain."

During the autumn of 1832, the cholera suddenly burst out in certain parts of the town, raged violently for three days, and at the end of the week, disappeared entirely, having carried off about ninety-nine individuals from a dense population of about 14,000!

CHAPTER III.

General Description of the Interior—Aspect and Scenery—Bays—Druidical Remains—The Country People and their Character, and Mode of Life—Small Proprietors and Cottagers—Singular Usage—Dress, and Personal Appearance—Dialect—Laws affecting Property.

When speaking of Jersey, I said, that "the general aspect of the island is wooded fertility, and the general character of its scenery, softness and beauty." This observation is inapplicable to Guernsey, which is neither so well wooded nor productive, as Jersey; nor, in the general attractions of its natural scenery, can at all be compared with it. Taste and money, have produced greater results here than in Jersey: and this is true, not only in reference to the immediate environs of St. Peter's Port, but of the island generally. Houses of a very superior description, are met with, in every excursion through the island; and these are very generally surrounded by pleasure grounds of some considerable extent; well laid out; and in the very best order. But the lover of natural scenery, will be less gratified in Guernsey than in Jersey; he will miss the extensive orchards; the

arcades of branches, beneath which, in Jersey, he may drive for miles, and walk for a long summer's day; he will miss the wooded bays and coves; the shady hollows, and the deep winding valleys, with their wood clothed slopes, and their fine brimful rivulets. For the absence of these indeed, there are some indemnifications: the views are more open; there is a freer circulation of air; and a greater number of handsome country seats. It must not be supposed however, from what I have said, that Guernsey is destitute of timber; and without natural beauty. When I say, that the scenery and aspect of Guernsey, are English, I pay the island no indifferent compliment. In most parts of the island, there is a fair sprinkling of wood, — in some parts abundance. Wherever we find a gentleman's seat, the absence of shade can never be complained of; and the comparative scarcity of wood in Guernsey, produces more variety of scenery; for the grass and corn fields of Jersey, are often hidden by the wood which intervenes.

One reason why Guernsey has a more naked aspect than the sister island is, that the inclosures and embankments, which in Jersey are planted with trees, are formed in Guernsey of furze. There is at least, great gaiety in this substitute. Its yellow blossoms form an agreeable variety in colour; and relieve the monotony of those more sterile parts of the island, where the furze is not confined to the inclosures, and fences, but is raised as a product, for the purposes of fuel. There is indeed, a considerable portion of waste land in Guernsey; and one part of the island

presents a totally different aspect from the other: for, while the east, south, and central parts of the island, present all the characteristics of fruitfulness and industry, large tracts in the north and western parts, are but imperfectly reclaimed; and present a very uninviting and sterile appearance. A considerable portion of the island is indeed but recently reclaimed from the sea, which had at an early period overflowed it; and the part of the island which lay beyond, and higher than the submerged portion, was only accessible by a narrow stone causeway, until the year 1808, when by the erection of an embankment, the tide was excluded, and the land reclaimed. It is now enclosed and cultivated; but is, as may be supposed, destitute of wood; and little attractive in appearance.

Guernsey has its pretty bays as well as Jersey; though they are in general, less land locked, and less wooded. Fermaïn bay, Petit-Bo, and Moulin-Huet, are all three worth a visit; but these will certainly not compare with Grève de Lecq, Rozel, or St. Brelade's bays, in Jersey.

In driving through Guernsey, one cannot fail to be pleased with the comfortable appearance of the farm houses, and even cottages. I have not seen in Guernsey, such large establishments as in Jersey, or so extensive buildings: but neither have I seen any cottages so poor. There is I think, an air of greater neatness and comfort, about the farm house in Guernsey, than in Jersey: in fact, the people of all ranks are more English.

There are not many objects in Guernsey, excepting in St. Peter's Port, worthy of any special notice. A

Guernseyman would conduct a traveller to the Druidical monuments: but I shall do no more than say, that such exist; and that one of the most perfect among them, was only discovered in the year 1812, having been till that time, covered by heaps of sand. Some antique vessels were found within it, and some remains of human bones. There is also an obelisk of Celtic origin; but without any inscription.

To one visiting Guernsey, I would offer the same advice as I did when speaking of Jersey. Visit whatever may be pointed out; but undertake at all events, a pedestrian journey round the island. Descend into the bays, double the headlands, and skirt the cliffs, though it may be necessary to hold by the furze. This is the way to see an island. Many fine scenes, and singular spots escape one, if excursions be only directed to particular points: and as there is not in Guernsey, any particular spot, like La Hogue Bie, in Jersey, from which the whole island is embraced, it is necessary, in Guernsey, to make more exploratory journeys in the interior.

But it is now time that I should say something of the inhabitants of the island; and first, I shall speak of the middle and lower classes,—the country people generally.

It is scarcely to be supposed, that any very marked distinction should exist between the characters of the people of Guernsey, and of Jersey. Love of acquisition distinguishes both; and perhaps, in nearly an equal degree; though I confess I have not observed, nor have been able to obtain such glaring proofs of extreme parsimony in Guernsey, as in Jersey. It is

certain however, that they are a thrifty, and a saving people; but it is equally certain, that among the more substantial farmers, the manner of living has considerably swerved of late years, from the old, and generally prevailing style; and that although "*soupe à la graisse,*" is not exploded, a meat diet is creeping in; and foreign luxuries, and modern usages, are more prevalent among the country people, than in Jersey. That such should be the case, will appear quite natural, when I come to speak of the upper classes,—among whom, in comparison with Jersey, little or nothing of the old island domestic economy prevails; and whose tastes, and example, have had their effect, in the production of new and improved habits throughout the island.

In Guernsey, as in Jersey, the country people live upon, and cultivate their own properties, which are, upon the whole, even more limited than in Jersey. Quail in his agricultural report says, that the largest estate does not exceed 200 Guernsey vergèes, $2\frac{3}{4}\frac{3}{8}$ of which, equal an English acre: and that few exceed 100 vergèes. The farmer of 20 or 30 acres, is considered a large farmer: but of course, the great majority of properties are much inferior in extent.

There are three classes of the country people: the substantial land-owner and farmer; the small proprietor; and the cottager. All the three classes have however one object:—the accumulation of money; and, generally speaking, all accomplish it. The first class, like their equals in Jersey, mostly live upon that part of the produce of their properties which is the least marketable,—raising parsnips and beet root, for

the consumption of their cattle; potatos for the distilleries, and for exportation; and apples for cider; and gradually acquiring land, or rents, with their savings. The smaller proprietor raises the same articles in smaller quantities. He has his one cow, and his few pigs; and being still more economical in proportion to his means, than the class above him, he seldom fails to hoard a little treasure. Such individuals too, often add to their agricultural pursuits, the trades of carpenter or mason,—or some handicraft; and walk daily six or seven miles to and from their work,—snatching a day from time to time, for the cultivation of their own little estates. It often happens too, that these small proprietors, who chance to live near the coast, are fishermen,—three or four clubbing in the ownership of a boat; and while the husband on his return, cultivates his ground, the wife carries the fish to market. The day labourer is either a cottager; or one of the family of the small proprietor; and he also saves money,—urged by the honest ambition of being able to build a cottage on the small patrimonial division that may descend to him on the death of his parents.

I have already spoken generally, of the respectable and neat exterior of the houses and cottages of the country people. I would add, that the interior seldom fails to answer the expectations which one forms. There is a neatness about the arrangements, which at once favourably impresses the stranger; and even in entering a cottage, where there is only a "but and a ben," I have seen as clean floors, and as neat a display of crockery and kitchen utensils, as one could find in any of the most comfortable English cottages.

In Guernsey, the "*lit de veille*" is more universally seen than in Jersey; but this expression requires explanation. The "*lit de veille*" is a broad bed-frame, occupying one corner of the common room, raised about a foot and a half above the ground, and covered with dry fern, or hay, or pea-haulm. On these "*lits de veille*," the young people in the house where it is, and of the neighbouring houses, to the number of a dozen perhaps, or even considerably more, and of both sexes, assemble during the long winter evenings; sitting in a circle, feet to feet. There the girls sow or knit, and the young men talk or sing. One large lamp is suspended over head; and some say,—arguing perhaps, from the parsimonious character of the natives,—that the custom originated in the advantage of saving fire and candle, since one light suffices for the inhabitants of many houses; and since no fire is needed, where a score of persons are packed so close together. One might imagine, that such a custom as this, would be productive of idle habits, and possibly even, of worse: but judging both by the industrious habits of the population, and by their generally pure morality, I should infer, that no such effects are produced. I believe, however, prudent mothers shake their heads at mention of the *lit de veille*, and this custom, like many others, is on the wane in both islands. In Jersey, I have seen the walls against which the "*lit de veille*" is placed, and the roof above, also festooned with flowers and shrubs,—laurel, myrtle, rose, and sun-flower; so that the scene is sometimes equally pretty as it is curious.

The peculiar dress too, of the inhabitants, is, like

their ancient customs, undergoing a rapid change; particularly the head-gear of the women. I was surprised and somewhat amused by this remnant of old things, the first time I chanced to see it. To begin at the head,—the bonnet, the true ancient Guernsey bonnet, still seen occasionally amongst the older inhabitants,—is equally complicated, as it is curious; it is *sui generis;* and like the lily of Guernsey, peculiar to the isle. I can scarcely be expected to be graphic in my description of the make and fashioning of a bonnet; and conscious of my own deficiences, I obtained the following, from one more conversant with these matters. "The crown of the bonnet (which is altogether of very large dimensions), is formed of a long piece of silk, gathered into three rows of plaits, of an oval shape, from the front to the back of the head; and is set off between the folds, with lace, or crape, according as the wearer is, or is not in mourning. A very large, and very complex bow of narrow ribbon is plaited immediately in front. The top of the crown, is either flat, or is plaited to correspond with the rest of the bonnet; and on the tip-top, another bow is perched. The front, of pasteboard, is covered with silk, and resembles the vizor of a boy's cap; and is continued somewhat beyond the ears." Such is the Guernsey bonnet, which is accompanied by a close mob-cap underneath, with a narrow muslin border; plain on the forehead and temples, but plaited from the ears to the chin. I must sketch the remainder of the dress. A petticoat of black stuff, thickly quilted; the gown,—of an old fashioned chintz pattern,—open in front, and tucked into the pocket

holes of the petticoat; the bodice open in front to the waist,—with a coloured handkerchief in lieu of a habit-shirt; tight sleeves,—terminating just below the elbow; blue worsted stockings, with black velvet shoes and buckles. This dress, picturesque bonnet and all, is repudiated by the rising generation, who have discovered that the charms of youth are not greatly set off by the quilted petticoat, and towering bonnet, and blue worsted stockings.

I cannot greatly compliment the personal appearance of the Guernsey country people. There are dark and sparkling eyes among the women: but their features remind me of persons of colour; from whom, by the by, in their complexions, they do not greatly differ. The men, are, with few exceptions, badly limbed; and among the women too, the bust is better than the ancles.

The dialect of Guernsey differs considerably from that of Jersey. But it is of course difficult, if not impossible, to explain the difference. The dialect is even different, in different parishes: for the nearer these lie to the towns, the less pure is the dialect spoken. The word "pure" may be thought by some, to be inappropriately used; but in fact, the *patois* of both islands, as it is spoken in the interior parishes, is nearly the pure French of some centuries ago; and while the French has changed, the language of these Norman islands remains nearly as when Wace, the Jersey poet, composed his "Roman du Rou," in the year 1160. Indeed, the inhabitants of the Channel Islands, in those parishes where their families have constantly intermarried, are purer Normans, than are

now to be found elsewhere. The people of Normandy are French.

Before leaving the agricultural population, to speak of the higher classes, and town population, I would mention, that the laws affecting the state and descent of property, although generally the same as those which regulate property in Jersey, yet differ in some respects. One is, that a fine on the alienation of property, which formerly obtained in the ci-devant provinces of France, is still collected in Guernsey, on the part of the lords of the crown, and lords of the fiefs; but in place of one-thirteenth part of the purchase-money, which was exigible in Normandy,—in Guernsey it is generally compounded for, on payment of two per cent. on the purchase-money. Another difference between Guernsey and Jersey is, that there is not in the former island, any direct law to prevent partitioning lands below a prescribed number of vergées; so that land is infinitely divisible. One other difference is, that the legislature of Guernsey, has not as in Jersey, thought fit to fix an invariable payment, in lieu of those corn rents, which fluctuate with the price of wheat; a regulation which Quail, in his report to the Board of Agriculture, says, "falls in some instances grievously heavy upon the purchasers of dwelling houses who have granted rents of this description."

CHAPTER IV.

The Upper Classes in Guernsey—State of Society—Reasons of its superior Tone — Exclusiveness — Fine Arts — The Drama— Puritanism—The Spirit and Influence of the Press.

In speaking of the upper classes in Guernsey, I feel that I am entering upon an agreeable division of my subject.

Many, indeed the greater part, of the observations I have made respecting the character of the country people of Jersey, apply, in a somewhat modified form, to the same class in Guernsey. In Guernsey, as in Jersey, we find insular independence, though somewhat less sturdy; parsimony, though in some degree less unyielding; with industry, and all the other lights and shades which it throws on human character,—though scarcely so strongly marked. For the origin of the milder degree in which we contemplate insular character among the country people of Guernsey, we must have recourse to the character and habits of the classes immediately above them. In all ages, and in all countries, we find the lower classes remain nearly stationary, unless they are acted upon by the upper strata of society.

There is a marked difference in the state of society in Jersey and in Guernsey: and my object being, to speak truth, without any interest in pleasing the one,

—or any fear of offending the other,—I am bound to say, speaking with reference to those classes which, from station or wealth are usually denominated the upper classes, that it will require at least another generation, before the general level of civilization in Jersey, can be raised so high as it is at this moment in Guernsey. To the most cursory observer this must be obvious. Guernsey, and its localities, though far from indifferent to a Guernseyman in the educated classes, do not wholly engross his thoughts, or form the theme of his conversation. The world at large has a share in both: and if this were the only distinction between Jersey and Guernsey, it would be sufficient to establish the superiority; for it is, in fact, the best evidence that could be adduced, of a higher state of civilization.

That there should be this superiority in Guernsey, is no way wonderful; though I believe it has been the product of but late years. The absence of that party spirit, which in Jersey, so divides society, is perhaps of itself, sufficient to account for it: not only because it has allowed a freer intercourse; but more especially, because the absence of those topics of local politics, which in Jersey are the fulcrums upon which party spirit hangs, permits the mind to be employed in more useful, and more humanizing speculations; and leaves conversation at liberty to be a means of mutual instruction. In Guernsey, I have never heard conversation turn upon any question of local politics. I make a distinction between questions of local interest, and questions of local politics. It would be a poor compliment, to say, that the agriculture, the commerce,

the improvement of the island, formed no theme of conversation in Guernsey; but such themes are very dissimilar from the angry discussions, or the engrossing colloquies, on matters of party politics, which are so inimical to the progress of civilization in the sister island.

I may state as another reason of the higher standard of civilization in Guernsey, the greater wealth of the upper classes. As I am not writing a history of Guernsey, I do not concern myself with how that wealth was acquired: it is sufficient for my purpose that it has been acquired; or is inherited; and that it has been possessed by many, so long, that the tastes and habits incident to the act of acquiring, have been lost; and that those other tastes have grown, which are the sure followers of pecuniary independence, and which lead to, and indeed, mark the refinement of a people. It is possible, that in Jersey, there may be a very few on an equality in wealth, with any in the sister island; and it is probably also true, that in Jersey, there are many more individuals in the way of acquiring wealth,—the natural result of its superior trade; but in Guernsey, there is a vast preponderance over Jersey, in the number of those, whose fortunes now are, or have always been, independent of trade.

From this fact, arises a third reason why civilization is higher in Guernsey than in Jersey. The inhabitants have seen more of the world. To meet a travelled Jerseyman, is rare. In Guernsey, few who have the means of travelling, have omitted to avail themselves of the opportunity.

Some accidental circumstances have also had their influence. More and better English alliances have been formed in Guernsey, than in Jersey. The greater attractions of Guernsey society, and the less temptation which the higher prices of Guernsey have held out to residents, have brought to that island a somewhat superior class of strangers; and I would add, that the residence of Lord De Saumarez on his patrimonial ground, has also had its influence in raising the tone of society.

If I am asked, where are the proofs of superior civilization,—I may answer, that none are required; since it is impossible, that the different circumstances in which Guernsey and Jersey are placed, could fail to produce a difference in their respective states of society. But this superiority is seen in a thousand things. It is observable, in more varied topics of conversation; in more extended, and more liberal views; in more amenity of manner; in greater respect for talent and acquirements; above all, in a more perfect understanding of the English language, which not only facilitates an acquaintance with those models which cannot be studied without corresponding effects; but excludes the use of a dialect which is as unsuited to civilized life, as are the habits of the people among whom it was employed two centuries ago.

The state of Guernsey society, and the nature of social intercourse, are nearly the same as these are found in any other place where there is an equal portion of wealth and civilization. Much has been said, and many jibes have been indulged, on the subject of Guernsey exclusiveness; and the strictness of

the line which separates classes, has been both complained of and ridiculed. The exclusives have been called "sixties,"—the second class, "forties,"—and it has been even said, that the number of candles carried in a lantern, indicates the class to which the individual profiting by it, belongs. That there is an aristocracy in Guernsey, is true; and that there is a strict line of demarcation between trade, and those who live, and have always lived without it, is most true: but I do not know, that the distinction which obtains in Guernsey, is at all different from that which is observed in any town where there is a resident gentry. If the exclusive privileges of an aristocracy, were limited to the comparatively harmless pride of forming a society among themselves, it would be well. The people would nowhere grudge this. At the same time, I am no advocate for an exclusiveness, which prefers a coat of arms, to a cultivated mind, and gentlemanly manners: and in these days, I do not think society requires a code of laws to keep it in order. Society naturally falls into different levels; and I think, should be left to find them. I question whether artificial props are wise inventions.

There is no reason to doubt, that the natural course of events, will correct whatever is amiss; and that the progress of intelligence, the growth and more equal distribution of wealth, and the other causes which are silently effecting changes throughout the world—and especially in England, will break down those barriers which were reared by the superior intelligence, the superior refinement, and the more ample means of gratifying taste, once possessed by the aristocracy;

but which ought not to exist, a moment after these are removed. The establishment of Elizabeth College too, will facilitate this change; children of different classes of society will be educated together; intimacies will be formed; equality of treatment, and a community of knowledge, will weaken, if not erase aristocratic distinctions: playmates will become friends; friendships will lead to family connexions and alliances; and exclusiveness will die away, because there will be no longer any rational or defined line of demarcation.

The tone of the best society in Guernsey is unobjectionable: and whether in dress, manner, appointments, or language, is on a level with society of the same rank in England. Parties of a hundred and fifty or two hundred persons, are given every fortnight, by a certain limited number of families of the exclusive classes; and at these entertainments, I have seen nothing wanting, that either money or taste could command. I have heard it remarked by persons who had mixed much in good English society, that in Guernsey there is somewhat too much stateliness; and that one was occasionally reminded of persons playing at kings and queens. It would not have occurred to me, to make the observation; but this I must admit, that unless on gala days, things are not always in perfect keeping. The door of a house like a palace, or at least, of such a house as no one in England would think of living in, who possessed less than 6000*l.* or 8000*l.* a year, is perhaps opened in Guernsey by a female servant. This is a trifle, but it is a trifle worth telling.

English residents have complained of the difficulty of gaining admission into Guernsey society. When speaking of Jersey, I made some remarks upon this complaint, which apply equally to Guernsey, as to Jersey: and I will only now repeat, that it is an unreasonable expectation for any one to indulge, that the best society is to be open to him who brings no passport to it,—no proof that he has a claim to its attentions.

Owing to the better opportunities which many in Guernsey have enjoyed both in England and on the continent, of judging of the fine arts, by seeing and hearing the best models—painting and music are more cultivated and more patronised in this island, than in Jersey. At Castle Carey, the residence of J. Carey, Esq., there is a good collection of pictures, chiefly of the Spanish school. There are Murillos and Espanolettos,—and some clever bits by others than the Spanish masters; particularly by Bassano, Guido, Teniers, and Salvator; though it is questionable, whether the pictures acribed to the latter, be really from the hand of this great master. The collection is well worth a visit; and the proprietor has much pleasure in shewing his pictures to those who are capable of appreciating their merits.

As the best proof I could give, of the superior estimation in which music is held in Guernsey, comparatively with Jersey, I need only state, that I have known the same highly respectable Italian company, perform one week, to empty houses in Jersey, and the next, draw overflowing audiences in Guernsey.

Altogether among the native inhabitants of Guernsey,

there is less work, and more play, than in Jersey: less of the business of life, and more of its elegances. Visiting, amongst the upper classes, is on a somewhat different footing. There are fewer clubs; rather less clanship; and dinner parties are not so much confined to relations,—nor so much limited to seasons, and particular days. As for the tea parties, or, as Mr. Berry calls them, in a book on Guernsey, "hum-drums," from which he says, "the ladies trudge home on pattens, with state lanterns,"—tea parties and gossip no doubt continue yet; but better paved streets, and gas lamps, have rendered pattens and lanterns unnecessary; and the increase in the number of private vehicles has provided a still better substitute.

I have only to add, that a taste for the drama can scarcely be said to exist in Guernsey,—at least not among the upper classes. The best evidence of this is, that the theatre is little better than a barn,—though indeed it may possibly be, that the performances in Guernsey are so indifferent, that taste is shewn rather in staying at home, than in witnessing them. It is difficult sometimes, to distinguish between causes and effects. The people, it may be said do not go to the theatre, because it is a mere barn; but it may be answered,—the theatre would not be a barn, were there sufficient dramatic taste to provide a suitable house. It may be said, the inhabitants do not go to the theatre because the performances are so indifferent; to which it may be answered,—if there were a demand for good performers, the supply would speedily follow. One cause however of the ill odour in which theatrical entertainments are held, is certainly the

prevalence of puritanism, which has unquestionably made rapid advances in Guernsey during the last few years. Before I left the Channel Islands, "the tongues" had made their appearance; and a reverend gentleman of the episcopal persuasion, had been displaced by the Bishop of Winchester, by reason of his countenancing these extravagances.

Before concluding this chapter, I will advert for a moment, to the influence of the press on society; which I think is no way more powerful than it is in Jersey,—though a different reason is to be assigned for this. Society in Guernsey, is certainly in that state in which we should expect to find the press exerting some influence; but there is in fact no room for such influence. The want of interest generally felt in public affairs, necessarily deprives public journals of interest or influence; and this is the case in Guernsey. The people having no representation in the mother country, and being placed beyond the effects of its legislatorial enactments, have little interest in parliamentary questions, and British politics: and so happily is Guernsey situated, as regards her insular government, that questions of local politics rarely arise, to provoke discussion. Besides, in a small community like Guernsey, where everybody knows everybody's business, the mysteries of editorship cannot be sustained; and the magical "*we*" is powerless; because it is identified with Mr. ——, an individual whom everybody knows, and daily sees; and nobody cares for.

Newspapers, good enough to be influential, cannot be supported by the upper classes alone; and the

Guernsey public generally, is not a reading, or speculative public; and there is no temptation to contribute to the public journals. No credit is to be gained by it; and as an incognito cannot easily be preserved, few who are competent to instruct, or guide public opinion, care to run the risk of obloquy, or of the indirect rejoinders, which are the offspring of jealousy. Original communications are therefore common place; and editorial observations, are such as might be expected in a community like Guernsey, where there being no "taxes on knowledge," and newspapers requiring no capital, the number of journals is multiplied; while at the same time the limited sphere of circulation, prevents the possibility of paying for talent. There are five newspapers in Guernsey, two of them (English) appearing twice a week; and chiefly containing extracts from the English and French papers,—local occurrences,—advertisements,—and original articles savouring largely of puritanism. The Guernsey English papers are only about one half the size of those published in Jersey.

CHAPTER V.

AGRICULTURE IN GUERNSEY.

The introductory observations which I made on the agriculture of Jersey, are also applicable to the sister island. I allude to the almost infinite division of property (in Guernsey carried to a greater extent even,

than in Jersey), and its natural effects, in restraining the accumulation of capital; and consequently, in crippling improvement in husbandry. The size of properties in Guernsey varies, from five to twelve English acres,—very few of them exceeding this extent; and land is constantly becoming more and more subdivided; owing, as I stated in a former chapter, to the state of the law, which allows to each son, a legal right to an equal share of his father's landed property, — the exception in favour of the eldest being only that he is entitled to the house, and about twenty perches of land around it.

Owing to the resemblances in soil, climate, civilization, &c., much similitude exists in the husbandry of the two islands. There are some points of difference, however: the heterogeneous crops seen in Jersey, are scarcely to be found in Guernsey; and in the harvesting of barley, the singular custom prevails, of pulling the grain up by the roots. Quail says, the reason assigned for this singular practice is, the gain in the bulk of the straw obtained; and in the benefit to the clover crop.

In speaking of the price of land in Guernsey, that which is called building ground must be excluded. Within a mile of St. Peter's Port, and adjoining the high road, such ground sells at enormous and constantly increasing prices; and in the more fashionable neighbourhoods, it has commonly brought from 500*l.* to 1000*l.* per English acre, in parcels of from half an acre, to one acre each. Within the same distance of the town, good arable or pasture land, lets freely at from 7*l.* to 10*l.* per English acre; and in the country,

a farm of from five to ten acres, with a small house attached to it, will let at little less than 6*l.* per acre. Although spade husbandry be employed, no man, unless he labours assiduously, and exercises the most severe economy, can live upon the produce of his land, and pay his rent.

I need scarcely say, that the produce of corn land, varies according to years and soil; four Winchester quarters per English acre, is considered a good crop of wheat; but this is very frequently obtained; and six even, have been known to be produced.

On the land under tillage, which is rapidly on the increase in Guernsey, wheat is most generally grown; and the red is preferred; partly because of its producing heavier crops, and partly because it is less obnoxious to the ravages of small birds, which, especially sparrows, are exceedingly numerous in Guernsey, although the States of the island, have for years past, granted a sum of 70*l.* per annum, as a premium for the destruction of sparrows. Barley generally follows a wheat crop, and is of an excellent quality. When Quail wrote, it appears, that barley was chiefly used for bread; but it is now, for the most part, disposed of to the brewers for malting; and has of late been sold at 12*s.* the Guernsey bushel, which contains 55 lbs. English. Oats and rye are neither of them much cultivated in Guernsey, unless merely for house use. Sometimes oats form the first crop on land on which furze has been grown: but since the peace has opened the continental ports, the island can be supplied with oats, cheaper than it can grow them.

Parsnips, though still extensively cultivated, are

somewhat on the decline. This is owing to the more extensive cultivation of beet-root, and of potatos, for the use of distilleries, and for exportation; and the cultivation of these roots, being much less expensive than that of parsnips, it is now more in vogue.

Quail states that sea sand is employed in Guernsey husbandry, and is found beneficial: but sea sand purely so, is not in use; the only sea sand used, being that which is mixed with decomposed sea weed,—and which is then, rather mud than sand. The sand of Guernsey contains few or no calcareous particles, being mere pulverized granite; and is consequently of no service in vegetation,—unless on very heavy lands, of which there are scarcely any in Guernsey.

With the exception of the draining of marsh lands —from which fine meadows have been formed,—and the improvements in live stock, no great alterations in the husbandry of Guernsey have taken place during the last twenty years. The establishment, however, sometime ago, of an agricultural society, under the very best management, bids fair to effect important improvements; and in the breeding of cattle, to which I shall presently more particularly allude, the efficacy of such an establishment has already been proved.

But on all properties and farms of tolerable size, the dairy is the principal object of attention; and is also the most profitable part of farming. The butter always finds an immediate sale in the market at 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; although French and Dutch butter may be purchased at one half of that price. A good cow is expected to yield 7lbs. of butter per week; and many have been known to produce double that quan-

tity for a short period. The cows are universally tethered, as in Jersey, and are moved, watered, and milked, three times a day. From about the beginning of November, during the winter, parsnips aud mangel wurzel are given to the cows at night.

The price of Guernsey cows may be thus stated. An average good farmer's cow will cost from 9*l.* to 11*l.* A handsome cow, for a gentleman's dairy, from 11*l.* to 14*l.* A known good cow, such as might be sent as a specimen, from 14*l.* to 16*l.* Heifers about $2\frac{1}{4}$ years old, ready to calve, sell about 2*l.* below these classes,—classifying them as above.

The export of cows from Guernsey is not large. I have been told that one reason why so few cows are sent to England, is, that it is difficult to tempt even a small farmer to part with his cow. This however, appears to be an insufficient reason; for as all cows are not of equal goodness, the farmer might part with his inferior animals. In 1832, there were exported 238 cows, and 394 heifers and calves. In 1833,—185 cows, and 368 heifers and calves.

There are few points in which island jealousy is carried farther, than regarding the breed of cows, of Jersey and Guernsey. It is certain however, that of late years, greater attention has been bestowed upon the breed of cattle in Guernsey, than in Jersey; and the law forbidding the importation of any foreign breed, has been scrupulously acted upon. A Guernsey farmer would not upon any account, admit a Jersey cow on his grounds. In England, no difference between Guernsey and Jersey cows, is understood: but the number of the latter exported, being by far the

greater, they are generally better known to the jobbers.

The Guernsey cattle are considerably larger than those of Jersey; and it appears, from the evidence of the clerk of the market, that an ox has attained the weight of 1500lbs. Quail, in his report, says, those of 1200lbs., or 60 score, are not unfrequently seen. I am told, that a Guernsey cow, when its nativity ls distinctly known, and when offered among those best able to judge, fetches a higher price than the Jersey cow. This may possibly be owing to the larger size: for there can be no doubt, that greater size, supposing all the other points equal, gives the animal an advantage. The following is the description and standard of excellence of a Guernsey cow, transmitted to me by one well versed in those matters. Colour: light red, yellow and white. The points of excellence are 20, viz:—1. Pedigree of the bull, as well as the cow; yellow ears, tail, and good udder, 7 points. 2. General appearance; colour, cream, light red, or both, mixed with white, 3 points. 3. Handsome head, well horned; and bright and prominent eye, 4 points. 4. Deep barrel-shaped body, 3 points. 5. Good hind quarters, and straight back, 2 points. 6. Handsome legs, and small bone, 1 point. I believe however, this classification of points of excellence is not rigidly adhered to. I have seen it stated of the Guernsey cows, young and old, that the general average is rather more than 365lbs. of butter in the year, being equal to 1lb. of butter or eight quarts of milk in the 24 hours.

But the proof of the superiority of the Guernsey cow, which is the most triumphantly appealed to, is

the superiority of the Guernsey butter. Without meaning to take any side in the dispute, I would merely say, that the superiority of the butter, is not a certain test of the superiority of the cow: because it may arise from the superior management of the dairy. The superiority however, of the Guernsey butter, I fully admit. I do not know that I have anywhere seen such butter as in the Guernsey market: and if such excellence really be a proof of the superiority in the cow, the palm must unquestionably be awarded to Guernsey.

Three vergées and a half, or about one acre three-fourths English, good land, are considered sufficient for the support of a cow. In Bellingsley's agricultural survey of Somersetshire, he says, "from three to four acres of land, will keep a cow, throughout the year." It is difficult to account for this difference, betwixt England and these islands, in the quantity of land required for the keep of a cow. Perhaps the best explanation may be found, in the practice of staking the cows, which is common to all the islands. The stake being frequently changed during the day, each time, a new semi-circular range of four or five feet is added; and the grass is perhaps eaten cleaner, and is less generally trodden down. Thus, a practice, which at first sight appears almost cruel, and which an English agriculturist would certainly deride, is perhaps one cause of the prosperity of the islands, by allowing a greater number of cattle to be reared and exported, than could have been the case under what would be called, an improved system.

The prejudice entertained by each island, in favour

of its own breed of cattle, is not without its use. It leads to attention towards the breed; although it must be admitted, that until the institution of the Agricultural Society of Guernsey, no systematic attempt was made, in either island, to raise the standard: the law, forbidding the importation of other breeds (which by the by, was carried farther in Jersey, than in Guernsey; as in the former island, not only are foreign cattle prohibited, but the breeds also of the neighbouring islands), was deemed sufficient protection. The Agricultural Society of Guernsey however, has successfully exerted itself in the improvement of all kinds of live stock,—horses and pigs, as well as cattle.

To these notices, I would only add, that the same facilities for the conveyance of produce to market, and for other agricultural improvements, by the construction of new roads, exist here, as in Jersey; and that this excellent measure met with about equal opposition from the country people of both islands. Quail says, "one farmer evinced his sincerity, by enjoining on his death bed, that his remains, on their conveyance to their last home, should not be carried over any part of the new road."

CHAPTER VI.

THE TRADE OF GUERNSEY.

In my chapter on the trade of Jersey, I stated, that the commerce of Guernsey was much less important than the commerce of that island. Guernsey

indeed affords fewer facilities for an extended commerce, than Jersey : and in fact, so little is there of produce or manufacture to export, that it is not at all unusual for vessels to leave the island on ballast, for another country, there to begin their mercantile adventure : for the Guernsey merchants do not, like those of Jersey, possess extensive establishments in North America, which afford markets for the export of foreign, British, and colonial produce; or British, or island manufacture. Nor,—although there is abundance of wealth in Guernsey,—is that wealth so extensively embarked in ship ownership, and foreign trade. The tonnage of Guernsey shipping, reaches only 9157 tons : and in place of the present tonnage being an increase on former years, as we have found it to be in Jersey, it has suffered a diminution since the year 1813, when it reckoned fourteen more vessels, and nearly 2000 more tons.

During all the latter part of the last century, and indeed, throughout the wars of the revolution, independently of the large illicit trade which was carried on, a considerable accession to trade arose, from Guernsey being made a deposit for foreign wines, and other goods : which were passed legally to England when required. This was before the introduction of the bonding system into England, when the duties exacted on large cargoes of merchandize, required immense outlay of capital : and for the facilities of trade—especially of the wine trade—the climate of Guernsey, its large and excellent vaults, and its vicinity to England, offered important advantages. The bonding system however, was a fatal blow to this branch

of the trade of Guernsey: and in the beginning of the present century, strict regulations on the subject of illicit trade, were also enforced, which destroyed it for ever. Why the capital and enterprise of Guernsey, were not then turned into the same lucrative channels which have conducted the trade of Jersey to its present prosperity, it is difficult to assign a reason.

The commerce of Guernsey, consists chiefly, of the carrying trade. Vessels are fitted out for a port in Spain, or the Mediterranean, there to take in cargoes of wines, with which they proceed to South America. The cargoes being disposed of, the vessels are then re-loaded with sugar, coffee, &c. With these new cargoes, the vessels probably return to Guernsey for orders, for it seldom happens now, that their goods are stored in Guernsey. They are then perhaps despatched to the north,—as to Antwerp, Rotterdam, or Hamburgh; or possibly to the Mediterranean again. If to the former ports, they bring back corn, which terminates the voyage; or if to the Mediterranean, the cargoes are discharged; and another trip with wines then commences to South America.

It is evident, that this is a somewhat precarious trade,—the merchant, who chiefly navigates his own vessels, being dependent for his profits on the turn of the different foreign markets; for he has neither an inland market at home, to depend upon; nor, like the Jersey shipowners and merchants, establishments in British colonies, affording a ready market for all the commodities applicable to civilized life.

The imports and exports of Guernsey bear con-

siderable affinity to those of Jersey, though there are important differences; and in their relative value the affinity is small. The exports of island produce are necessarily smaller, from the less extent, and less productiveness of the island. The export of potatos from Guernsey was formerly greater than it now is; but that export has of late years diminished, owing to the use of the potato in the manufacture of spirit, and also of vinegar.

The trade of Guernsey, in wine and spirits, is still very large. During the year, ending with October 1833, there were imported 264,201 gallons of wine, of which, 112,500 gallons were re-exported; and of brandy, there were imported no less than 240,913 gallons, of which, however, I find only 53,057 gallons re-exported.

The extent of the trade of Guernsey in foreign produce for export or consumption, and in British manufactured goods for export to the colonies, bears no comparison with that of Jersey. The building and fitting out of an extensive shipping, do not give an impetus to a foreign import trade in Guernsey; and the long list of articles of British manufacture, &c., wanted for the extensive trade carried on by the Jersey island, with our colonial possessions in North America, scarcely enters into the imports and exports of Guernsey.

I have no exact account of the number of clearances in and out; either with, or without cargoes; but I have a statement before me, of the average for the last two years of the number of vessels (exclusive of packets) that arrived in the harbour, or the roadstead,

—with cargoes,—or on ballast,—or wind-bound. The number is stated to be 1800 : but a very large number of these must have been vessels wind-bound; for the roadstead of Guernsey is a favourite retreat for vessels, from the strong south-west winds that prevail in the Channel: and the numerous small French vessels laden with wine, from the southern ports, and bound either for the Channel ports, or the Baltic, frequently take advantage of Guernsey roads. Thirty, forty and fifty, or even as many as seventy, at a time, may be seen during the prevalence of a gale, anchored off St. Peter's Port.

CHAPTER VII.

Civil, Military, and Ecclesiastical Government—Taxation.

Although the constitution of this island, agrees in its more material points with that of Jersey, there are nevertheless some important differences, which require to be pointed out.

The military government of Guernsey, differs in nothing from that of Jersey; but their civil constitutions are dissimilar. This dissimilarity consists in the different constitution of the legislative body, and of the Royal Court in the two islands; as well as in the powers respectively exercised by them. It will be recollected, that the States, or legislative body of Jersey, is composed of the bailiff; the twelve judges;

the rectors of parishes; and the constables of parishes. In Guernsey, the elements are the same; but they are differently constituted. The States of Guernsey, in their legislative capacity, are composed, as in Jersey, of the bailiff,—named by the crown; the rectors of each parish, eight in number,—presented by the governor; the constables,—representatives of each parish; and the jurats: but the jurats, in place of being elected by the people, as in Jersey, are elected by a body called the States of election. This body is in fact the legislative body, with certain additions to its number. These additions are, two, in place of one constable from each parish; and the douzeniers, 132 in number, elected by the rate payers in the different parishes. The States in their legislative capacity, are in fact a representation of the larger body,—the States of election. The latter meet only for the purpose of electing the judges: the former, when any business is to be conducted, proceed thus. The writ is issued by the bailiff, for the assembling of the States of deliberation. The object of the meeting is explained to the constables, who respectively call together and consult the douzeniers, upon the matters in agitation; and on the appointed day, the bailiff, jurats and clergy assemble, together with one constable from each parish,—a delegate as it were, from his parish,—who votes according to the instructions he has received.

From what I have said, it will appear that the States of Guernsey, are less a representative body than the States of Jersey,—the jurats being elected not by the people at large, but by a small body,

elected by the people. And they are also, a less freely deliberative body: since the constables are situated differently from the other members of the States; being present, merely as delegates, and not exercising a free, deliberative judgment. Judging, however, by the working of the system, Guernsey will not suffer in a comparison with Jersey. Things go on much more smoothly in the former than in the latter island; and the disadvantage, if any there be, is more than counterbalanced by other advantages.

But the distinction between Guernsey and Jersey, in the constitution of the States, applies, and with more important results, to the Royal Court.

I have already, in speaking of Jersey, adverted to the evil consequences of the election of judges by something nearly approaching to universal suffrage. This not being the case in Guernsey, corresponding advantages are felt. The election of judges,—in any shape objectionable,—is less objectionable when intelligent men are the electors, than when this nondescript franchise is vested in the people at large. I need not point out the difference between a franchise for the election of a maker of laws, and for the election of an expounder and administrator of them. It is certain, that Guernsey profits by the difference between the constitution of her court of law, and that of Jersey; and that not only is justice more impartially and more intelligently administered, but the island at large, is not a prey to that spirit of faction which so prevails in Jersey, and which is mainly, if not wholly occasioned by the popular election of judges. There is no doubt, that originally, jurats were elected in

Guernsey, as they now are in Jersey. This is proved by insular records of the year 1578; and it is believed that the present practice originated somewhere about the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The legislative functions of the States of Guernsey, are less ample than they are in Jersey: and between the powers possessed by the States and the Royal Court of Jersey and of Guernsey, there is this difference; that in Guernsey, the Royal Court possesses more power; and the States possess less.

But here Jersey has the advantage in point of principle: for, although the States of Jersey are far from being a purely representative body, yet, they are in part representative; and therefore the making of laws, or at least the originating of laws by their body, is more in accordance with a correct principle, than the practice which obtains in Guernsey, where the States possess no power of framing, or introducing laws, or of effecting changes in the constitution,—such powers appearing to be vested solely in the privy council.

In one matter of practice, Jersey has an advantage over Guernsey. The jury is unknown in the latter island. All judicial power resides in the bailiff and jurats; and not even in criminal cases, is there any limitation of this power. I have not found, that in Guernsey, this want of a jury is complained of; but it is probable, that it requires only the introduction of a better system, to render the people sensible of its advantages.

The condition of the church in Guernsey, certainly calls for consideration.

With the exception of the town parish, the rec-

tories of the island are scarcely equal to the smallest English curacy. The great tithes of all corn and flax, the growth of the island, are king's revenue; and these are appropriated to the governor. To take a part of these, for the island clergy, would, I think be nothing more than justice: the clergy of Guernsey are hard working men; and there would certainly be nothing inconsistent with the spirit and meaning and object of church reform, to transfer emoluments from a sinecurist, to those who perform duties—when these duties are now inadequately paid. I would fain hope however, that if any alteration should be judged requisite in the condition of the clergy of these islands, government will see the propriety of effecting a separation between clerical and legislative duties. This, I have reason to know, is desired by many of the clergy themselves.

Here I must repeat the same observation I made, when speaking of the civil constitution of Jersey,—that the constitutions of these islands, ought not to be left to the management of their own legislatures. Amendments are required, both in constitution and laws, which will never be made by the authorities in either island. It would be absurd in these days, to moot the question as to the powers of the British government; or to discuss the question, whether the right of legislation over these islands is vested in the king, as duke of Normandy, or as king of England. It is a favourite opinion in the islands, that in cases where the general interests of the empire are in any way connected with the interest of the island—where, in fact, there is a common interest,—the British par-

liament may interfere: but that in all local matters concerning the interest of the islands solely, legislation lies with the island institutions and the privy council. I do not see the force of this distinction: I look upon it to be the duty of the British legislature, to legislate for the benefit of the whole empire: and if certain changes in the constitution of Jersey or Guernsey, would ensure greater security to property —more certain, or cheaper justice,—or would even have the effect of diminishing feuds, and of advancing civilization; and if there is no hope that the island legislatures will themselves effect these changes,—then, there is sufficient ground for the interference of the British government; and for the adoption of whatever measures may be sanctioned by the British parliament. In these observations, I have Jersey more than Guernsey in view; though I am very far from subscribing to a very general opinion in Guernsey, that in that island, no reform is needed.

In Guernsey we have an example of a general property tax, for general purposes,—for the support of the poor, as well as for all parish expenses, such as lighting, &c. This tax is levied on all property, of every description, whether real or personal, and wherever situated, belonging to every individual domiciled in the island (with the exception of real property situated in England or elsewhere, on which a rate is paid). The capital (though it be unproductive,—household furniture for instance, or stock in trade) —forms the rule upon which the annual amount is levied. The whole is estimated by the parish officers at a certain number of quarters of wheat per annum;

and the rate is fixed at a certain sum per quarter. In 1833, the tax levied within the town parish was 4800*l.*, which was 3 per cent. on the supposed revenue of the rate payers. It is only the supposed revenue from capital that is taxed,—pensions, salaries, professional income, half pay, &c., not being rateable.

This it is evident, is a comprehensive property tax; and the singularity of it is, that it actually comprehends portions of that identical property, upon which the British legislature has not dared to lay a finger,—viz: money in the British funds,—which is thus taxed for the support of the poor, &c., of Guernsey, whether it be the property of Guernseymen, or British residents. They say in Guernsey, that the system works well,—and that there are not many grumblers. They must be good easy men, these rate payers of Guernsey. I have now before me, a paper containing the order issued at the parish meeting, upon which the property tax is levied; and I see enumerated as property upon which a tax is levied, not only all the different English securities, but foreign securities also—among which I find Peruvian, Chilian, Colombian, Buenos Ayres, Greek, and Mexican!!!

It may well be asked how the tax-gatherers ascertain this kind of property? They ascertain it in this way. An individual is asked what property he has; and he must answer; for if he do not, the parish assembly would rate him at what they think he is worth: perfect seers these taxmen of Guernsey! and unless the individual so rated, choose to appeal, and make oath that he is not worth the property supposed, why then he must pay: but a proof on the part of the

douzaine would of course be better than the individual's oath. Property in any funds, is rated at the price at which the funds chance at that time to be. This is certainly a strange tax. Nothing can be more just, than that property should be assessed for the support of that government within whose jurisdiction the property is situated, and by which it is protected: but to tax the fluctuating, and almost nominal securities of some foreign states, the same as a freehold estate, or to tax them at all, is something very like an outrage upon common sense.

I will not conclude this chapter, without mentioning the subject of education in Guernsey. When speaking of the hospital of Guernsey, I mentioned the school attached to it. This is quite a distinct institution from the free school, on Bell's system; which, as in Jersey, is supported by voluntary contribution. It may be said to be flourishing, and instructs between two and three hundred children. In every parish in Guernsey, there is an endowed school; but the endowments are so small, that an addition is made to each of them, from the funds at the disposal of the directors of Elizabeth College. Almost all the children in the island attend school; and the number of persons in the country parishes, who cannot read and write, is extremely small. There are also Sunday schools in the country parishes, in connexion both with the established church and with the dissenters; supported solely by voluntary contribution.

CHAPTER VIII.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

I shall not waste the time of the reader, by an unprofitable inquiry as to the ancient name of Jersey; it is enough that we know from the itinerary of the emperor Antoninus that in his days, the island was known to the Romans by the name Cæsarea; from which we may conclude that this little spot owned the dominion of Rome, and perhaps had the honour of a visit from Cæsar. In the same itinerary to which I have alluded, Guernsey is called Sarnia. It appears from the researches of those who have thought it worth while to make them, that Jersey bore also, the name of Augia, a name which some think, it bore before it was known to the Romans, and which it is certain it did bear at a far later date; for by this name it was made over to a certain archbishop in the year 550, by Childebert, the son of Clovis. This apparent discrepancy is not difficult to account for. A name, like a language, is difficult to change. The decree of a conqueror cannot blot out the name by which a place is known in its vernacular and accustomed language; or as little, effect its appellation among surrounding countries; so that when Cæsar, or whoever else it might be that annexed Jersey to the Roman empire, chose to call it Cæsarea, in place of

Augia, it doubtless continued during some ages, to be better known by its ancient, than by its more modern name,—and thus, the archbishop saw no flaw in his title.

I shall pass to the beginning of the tenth century, previous to which period, there is little that is authentic, and nothing certainly, of sufficient interest to deserve record. About the year 912, Charles IV. of France, surnamed the Simple, finding himself unable to resist the incursions of the Normans, who, during nearly a century, had proved themselves troublesome and formidable neighbours, concluded a treaty with Rollo, their chief, by which a large extent of territory was ceded to him, to be held however, as a fief of the French crown,—and the islands adjacent to the Norman coast, were included in this treaty. The title of Rollo, as duke of Normandy, was recognized; and king Charles having, through the representations of the archbishop of Rouen, prevailed upon the Pagan chief, to accept the rite of baptism, gave him his daughter Gilla in marriage, and thus, cemented a treaty, out of which so many important events afterwards sprung.

But these events, as well as the government of Normandy, by Rollo and his successors, belong to general history; and during the period that elapsed from the establishment of Norman independence under Rollo, till the accession of William, known to us, as "the Conqueror," we have no records of the Channel Islands. This includes a period of 154 years, during which, six Norman dukes were lords of these islands; but, as we know from history, that Normandy was

well governed during that period; that her dukes were respected among contemporary princes; and succeeded in raising their dominions to a rank, to which their limited extent could not otherwise have entitled them, it is reasonable to conclude, that the islands subject to the Norman dukes, advanced, during that long period, in civilization and prosperity.

I refrain of course from speaking of the Norman Conquest, unless only, in so far, as the history of the Channel Islands is connected with it. These, although passing with the Norman possessions of William, to the English crown, were afterwards held independent of England, during the short reign of Robert duke of Normandy, William's son; and were not therefore finally annexed to England, until Henry I. despoiled Robert of his Norman possessions. From that early period, the inhabitants have uninterruptedly continued to be English subjects.

Falle, the accurate historian of Jersey, congratulates his countrymen upon the antiquity of the tie which bound them to England; and contrasts it with the later dates that mark the annexation of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland,—shewing, as he says, "how strong our attachment is to England, which has stood the test of so many ages." Situated as Jersey is, within an arm's length of France, the unbroken connexion which has subsisted during so many centuries, between that island and England, shews also, how important it has always been considered, as a dependency of the British crown.

The change in the laws, language and manners, which the Norman conquest introduced into England,

could not of course in any way affect these islands. They formed no part of the conquest; their laws and customs were Norman, and therefore remained to them; and the only consequence of William's acquisition of another kingdom, was, that Jersey and Guernsey were protected by a more powerful monarch.

From this period, until the reign of king John, the Channel Islands possess no separate annals. But now important events occurred; and the reign of this monarch, which was on many accounts so disastrous for England, was that, in which the independence and prosperity of these islands were secured.

Any detail of the events which terminated in the conquest of king John's Norman possessions, by Philip of France, would here be misplaced; but in so far as these disputes affected the future condition of Jersey and Guernsey, I must not pass them over in silence. Philip, taking advantage of the weakness of the English monarch, and finding a pretext for quarrel, invaded and subdued Normandy; and, as might be expected, resolved also, to dispossess England of those islands which had belonged to her kings, as dukes of Normandy; and which, now that Normandy had passed from her sceptre, to that of France, ought naturally to follow the fortunes of the fief to which they had pertained, and to which they were so nearly contiguous.

In this attempt however, the French king was not equally successful. The particulars of the defence of the islands have not come down to us; but we know, that although the French twice made good a landing in Jersey, they were unable to keep their ground

in the island, and were twice driven out. It was now, that king John, of opprobrious memory, suddenly became the active friend of this little corner of his dominions. Why and wherefore, he who had ingloriously stood aloof, when one of the fairest portions of his dominions was wrested from him, shook off his inactivity when these little islands were in danger, it is difficult to understand. Certain it is, however, that king John passed over from England, bringing succours along with him; and actively employed himself during some time, in strengthening the military defences of the islands; and in securing them against the future descents of the enemy.

Nor was this all.—As if in gratitude for the valiant defence of the islands, he presented to them, civil constitutions, containing extensive, and some, valuable privileges, which have been the basis of all charters and grants from the British crown, down to the present day. Although therefore, the laws of Normandy were still permitted to continue in force, Jersey and Guernsey were in all other respects freed from their connexion with Normandy; becoming a separate appendage of the English crown, to which, all appeals were now directed to be made, in lieu of those which had up to that separation, been decided by the supreme court of the duchy of Normandy.

It is stated by historians, and it is probably true, that while Normandy and the Channel Islands were under the same dominion, estates in both were held by the same individual; but it is obvious, that when Normandy was separated from the crown, while at the same time, these islands continued under the English

sceptre, it became necessary for the owners of estates under different dominions, to make a selection. This selection was of course determined by the relative value of the estates; most proprietors naturally preferring to abandon the property which was the least valuable: and thus, many properties in Jersey, were confiscated. I proceed with my sketch.

From this time, until the reign of Edward I., there is nothing to record: but in the time of that prince, an attempt was made by the French, to recover possession of these islands: it is certain, however, that the attempt was unsuccessful; and so stout was the defence offered by the natives, and so pleasing to the English monarch, that we have it on record, that rewards were conferred upon those who had distinguished themselves, and provision was made for the families of such as had fallen.

During the reign of Henry II., Jersey and Guernsey, although undisturbed by foreign invasion—the connexion of the king with the royal family of France forbidding this,—were subjected to all the evils which were incident to the government of a weak and tyrannical prince. The constitutions of the islands were violated, in many of their most important features; and many were the private as well as public grievances of which the inhabitants had to complain. But on the accession of Edward III., the people availed themselves of the valuable right of laying their complaints at the foot of the throne, by petition; and immediate redress was obtained from the wiser government of the new king.

But in the reign of Edward III., the disputes

which arose between England and France, involved the islands also; and although in this, as in the preceding reigns, the attempts of France were finally frustrated, yet, they were the occasion of many of the calamities which were inseparable from war. A powerful fleet was equipt and sent to sea by the orders of Philip de Valois, and Jersey and Guernsey were successively attacked. The attack on the former island, was however, unsuccessful; the enemy suffering a decided repulse before Mont Orgueil Castle—though —as asserted by Falle, proving successful in subjugating Guernsey.

Here, I am aware, I touch upon a tender point: since the authority of Falle in this matter, is not recognized in Guernsey. It is certain however, that Falle has justly the reputation of having been a pains taking and laborious inquirer; and from the numerous references appended to his volume, appears to have spared no trouble, in order that he might found his history upon authentic documents. The general authenticity of Falle, is therefore an important corroboration of the truth of his assertion; though it must at the same time be conceded, that his authority for the fact in question, is neither Froissart,—nor Sir Robert Cotton,—nor Walsingham,—nor any of those come-atable documents, upon which his facts are generally based,—but is simply stated to be "Ex MSS." With this qualification therefore, I state the facts as given by Falle.

But Falle proceeds to relate, not only how Guernsey remained three years in the possession of the French, but details also, the manner of its recapture.

He says, that after the decisive naval victory gained by Edward, and so circumstantially detailed by Froissart,—a fleet was placed under the command of Reynold de Cobham, and another admiral, to attempt the recovery of Guernsey; and that the inhabitants of Jersey learning this, and anxious for the deliverance of the sister island, contributed towards the expedition the sum of 6400 marks,—a large sum in those days,—and not only so, but gave powerful personal aid,—joining the English fleet, and sharing the glory of restoring the island of Guernsey to the English crown. But here again, we find "Ex MSS.:" and it is certainly singular, that Froissart, who is particularly full on the events of these times, and who, not being an Englishman, cannot be supposed purposely to disguise the truth, should neither have mentioned the capture of Guernsey by the French, nor its recapture by the English; and it appears also, from Sir Robert Cotton's abridgment of the records in the Tower, that after the capture of Guernsey by the French, as stated by Falle, a representation was made from the parliament of England to the king, "to keep the sea, and to purvey for the navy, and to defend the isles of Jersey and Guernsey." I do not by any means question the existence of the manuscripts referred to by Falle; and have no doubt, but that he considered them entitled to consideration; at the same time, I am entitled to make a distinction between these, and such documents as bear upon them the stamp of authority.

Not only is the possession of Guernsey by the French, and its recapture with the aid of Jersey, denied by the people of Guernsey,—they also lay

claim to having assisted in later times, in rescuing that part of Jersey, which was for a time held by them; and in corroboration of this statement, they point to the laurel leaf on the island arms, which, they say, was obtained in consequence. This claim, however, appears to rest solely on tradition; how or when the laurel leaf became a part of the arms of Guernsey, nowhere appears: but the assertion of Falle, respecting the occupation and recapture of Guernsey, being founded at least in some document which so authentic a writer considered to be genuine, is entitled to more weight, than the unsupported tradition which finds believers in Guernsey. But the dispute is after all very insignificant, and I am almost ashamed of having spent so much time over it.

Subsequent to these events, the Channel Islands enjoyed a season of tranquillity, to be again broken by new hostilities. The French sceptre passed into the hands of Charles "the Wise;" and he, dissatisfied with the treaty which Edward had concluded with France, by which the absolute sovereignty of the Channel Islands was specially conceded by France, renewed hostilities, and, as we find it recorded in English history, dispossessed Edward of his French territories. Turning from these conquests, on the Continent, to the islands which lie near to it; Guernsey was first attacked, under one, Yvans; but this enterprise having failed, Dr. Guesclin, constable of France, whose exploits and successes are so prominent in the history of these days, himself undertook the conduct of an expedition against Jersey. He appeared on the shore, with a powerful armament, and with an army,

as it is said, of ten thousand men; and the landing of this formidable force not being opposed, he laid siege to Mont Orgueil Castle. It is recorded, that the greatest exertions were used on both sides; and that prodigies of valour were performed both by the assailants, and by the defenders of the castle. At length, the conflicting parties, tired of the protracted struggle, entered into a compact, that the castle should surrender, if not relieved by succours from England, before a certain day. Previous to the stipulated time, the succours arrived, and the constable broke up the siege, and withdrew his forces.

Until the reign of Henry VI., there is little to be recorded. During the whole of Richard's reign, these islands were undisturbed; and during the reign of Henry IV., although frequent descents were made upon Jersey, by which great devastations were committed, no formidable attempt was made to reduce it. During the reign too, of Henry V., the islands remained unmolested; for the French monarch was too fully occupied in resisting the designs of so warlike an enemy as our fifth Henry, to find leisure, or means, for foreign aggression. But with the reign of Henry VI., a new chapter in the history of Jersey opens.

It was now, as the reader knows, that England was convulsed by the contention between the houses of York and Lancaster: with these disputes, as affecting England, this sketch has no concern; but it chanced, that Jersey also was affected by them: Margaret of Anjou went over to France, to endeavour to obtain assistance from Louis XI.: and this crafty prince, not

seeing it to be his interest openly to espouse her cause, yet secretly permitted a treaty to be entered into between the queen and one of his nobles, Pierre de Breze, comte de Maulevrier, a powerful Norman baron, by which he engaged to lead a body of men to her assistance,—while she on her part, consented, that in consideration of such aid, Jersey, and the other islands, should be made over to him and his heirs for ever, to be held independently of England. It is easy to discover in this treaty, and in the part secretly performed in it, by Louis XI., how important a possession these islands were considered even in those days; for it cannot of course be supposed, that the Norman baron would have been permitted to hold his acquisition, independent of the French crown; and indeed, it can scarcely be doubted, but that he acted from the beginning, under the direction, and for the benefit of the French king.

Pierre de Breze sailed for England, with about 2000 men, and at the same time despatched one Surdeval, to take possession of Jersey, that his reward might be no way contingent upon his services. The governor of Mont Orgueil Castle, who was of the queen's party, had received from her, secret instructions to deliver it up. By a secret agreement with him, the castle was attacked on a particular night; and he, being,—as it was known he would be —in bed; and the garrison unprepared for resistance, the castle changed masters. Soon afterwards, Pierre de Breze arrived from England; and took upon himself the supreme authority,—publishing sovereign acts, and styling himself "Lord of the islands of

Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and the others adjoining, —councillor and chamberlain of our sovereign lord the king of France," thus explicitly enough admitting his connexion with Louis.

But the possession of this stronghold, did not carry with it, the island of which it was in these days the chief defence. The inhabitants looked upon themselves as having been betrayed to the French; and were not to be won over by the conciliatory conduct and gracious promises of the Norman lord. The island became divided into two parts, owning separate masters. The six parishes most adjacent to Mont Orgueil Castle, yielded a reluctant obedience to the rule of Pierre de Breze; while the western half of the island, under the influence of Philip de Carteret, lord of St. Ouen, maintained its allegiance to England: and during the long period of six years, Jersey was thus a divided possession.

Edward IV. had now ascended the throne of England,—and with his accession, came the deliverance of Jersey from the presence of the Norman lord. A communication having been opened between De Carteret and Sir Richard Harliston, vice-admiral of England, who was then at sea with a fleet in the Channel, a simultaneous attack on the enemy's strong hold was resolved upon; the castle was invested by night, at the same time by sea and land—and the Normans, after gallantly repelling for some time, the assault of the assailants, perceiving the communication with France cut off, and that there was no longer any hope of maintaining successful resistance, capitulated.

Falle relates a little romance—for which indeed, he

does not pledge his veracity,—that the Normans thinking it possible that a boat might pass undiscovered through the English fleet, but fearful of their design being discovered, caused two boats to be built —one openly in sight of the enemy, and the other in some hidden spot; and, that their intentions might not become known, "the workmen were ordered so to time their blows, and strike evenly together on the two boats, that from the camp without, no sound might be heard but what would be supposed to come from the boat on the rampart." And Falle goes on to say, that in this way, the boat which was out of sight was finished, while the workmen were still seen employed in constructing that upon the rampart; and that intelligence of the device was conveyed to the enemy, by a letter, shot with an arrow into the camp, by some concealed friend to the English; and that the boat was intercepted. 'T is a good fable; but evidently nothing more. It is very unlikely that the masters of Mont Orgueil Castle, should not have possessed a boat; and that the workmen employed in constructing two boats at different places, could have timed their blows, so as to strike in unison, is not improbable only, but impossible. Mont Orgueil Castle however, and the whole island of Jersey, again returned to the dominion of England. Upon this restoration, Jersey received a new charter, in which the services of the people, in having regained possession of the island, were specially acknowledged. Sir Richard Harliston also, was recompensed with the government of the island which his exertions had been partly the means of recovering. What recompense was bestowed upon Philip de Carteret does not appear.

From this period, until the time of Henry VII., the history of Jersey offers nothing worthy of record. That prince, while Duke of Richmond, when pushed by adverse fortune, sought a temporary asylum in Jersey; and it was probably in consequence of his sojourn there,—and of the observation he had made of the laws and constitution—for few men were more observant than he,—that when he came to the throne, he enlarged the charter, and made some changes by modification and restriction, on the powers which had till that time been exercised by the governors.

During the reigns of Henry VII., and of Henry VIII., the people of Jersey suffered much from two causes; the oppression of the governors,—and the oppression of feudalism. The former appears to have been checked by the spirited conduct of Helier de Carteret, then bailiff of Jersey, who pled the cause of his countrymen in the star chamber, and succeeded in obtaining the removal of the obnoxious governor: the latter,—the oppressions of feudalism, were less easy of cure. So grievous were these, that Henry VII., despairing by any other means of softening the rigours of the system in Jersey, applied to Pope Sixtus IV., to command by his spiritual power, that forbearance and justice among the lords of Jersey, which the temporal power of the court had failed to produce. A bull was accordingly issued by the pope, excommunicating those who should disobey its injunctions of peace,—an expedient which proved effectual.

From this period, until the accession of the first Charles, the history of these islands offers no incident. During the reign of Edward VI. indeed, a descent was

made by the French, on the northern shore of Jersey; but the attempt was successfully repelled.

In the days at which we have arrived, the disputes between the king and the parliament, reached the shores of Jersey. The inhabitants, although for the most part of the king's party, numbered among them, many partizans of the parliament; and hostilities first commenced by the resistance of Sir Philip de Carteret to the demands of the parliamentary commissioners, who had instructions to require the relinquishment of his government. But while this dispute remained unsettled, the arrival in the island of Captain George Carteret altered the complexion of affairs, and restored tranquillity, if not unanimity. This gentleman, designated by Lord Clarendon, "a man of great eminency and reputation in naval command," and then comptroller of his majesty's navy, ranked nevertheless so high in the opinion of the parliament, that when the fleet, to act in opposition to the king, was entrusted to the Earl of Warwick, Captain Carteret was offered the situation of vice-admiral. He, however, would not accept a command, the duties of which would have involved a sacrifice of principle; and having good reason to know the state of public opinion in Jersey, he retired thither, and at once declared for the king; who knighted him, and conferred upon him the government of the island. Under his authority, royalty was again fully recognized; and not content with the re-establishment of the king's power within the island, he fitted out a squadron of ten vessels, which proved a most serious annoyance to the Channel trade, and did good service to the king's cause.

It was now also that prince Charles, finding himself unable to cope with the parliamentary troops in the west of England, whither he had been sent, bethought himself of the favourable disposition of the people of Jersey, and the natural defences of the island; and leaving the Scilly isles, to which he had at first been forced to retreat, he sailed for Jersey, where he arrived on the 17th of April, 1646, and was received with every testimony of respect and affection. He was accompanied by Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards the great Lord Clarendon, and by a numerous retinue of nobles and gentlemen, sharers of the various fortunes of the prince: but his sojourn in Jersey, extended to only two months,—the entreaties of his mother having prevailed with him, to leave Jersey, and retire into France. Lord Clarendon, however,—a greater man, —remained in the island two years, and there wrote, as I have already mentioned, a part of his celebrated work.

When the faults of Charles, and the intemperance of his enemies, had brought that unhappy prince to the scaffold, Charles II. was immediately proclaimed in Jersey. I need not follow the footsteps of the nominal king, through danger and disaster, to second exile: but meeting with no succour, and little respect on the Continent, we find him again casting his eyes upon the little sea-girt spot, where he had in another time of danger, been received and sheltered; and accordingly, the king, and his little destitute, but gay and wandering court, reached Jersey in the autumn, and remained in the island until the following spring; receiving from his subjects, all those tokens of respect, which it were to be wished he had better merited.

Falle, whom I wish always to mention with respect, speaks in raptures of the royal visit; and tells us how that "he did not disdain invitations and entertainments from our little gentry." But, what is more interesting, if true,—he is said to have become so well acquainted with the island as to have drawn a map of it with his own hand; which is said to be now in a cabinet of curiosities at Leipsic. It is also said, that soon after the arrival of the king in the island, Sir George Carteret assembled the States, that a levy might be made on the inhabitants, who it appears, were so much enamoured of royalty, and so flattered by the royal presence, that 633*l.*,—a considerable sum in those days, to be subscribed in so small an island,—was raised and presented to the prince, to whom the act of loyalty was doubtless extremely acceptable. It is worthy of remark however, that Jersey, of Norman origin, and French in its language, and in many of its customs, should have ever maintained such stanch loyalty towards the English crown. Loyal acts and loyal feelings, may sometimes be expended on unworthy objects,—but loyalty, directed by reason, is a virtue notwithstanding.

Exasperated by the continued loyalty of the Channel Islands,—for Guernsey no less than Jersey, remained steadfast in the cause,—and by the annoyance offered to trade by the squadron which had been fitted out, the English parliament resolved upon reducing them. A fleet was accordingly despatched, in October 1681, under the command of the well-known Blake; with a well appointed military force under the orders of Major General Haines. Several fruitless attempts

were made to effect a landing: Sir George de Carteret, the steady friend of the monarchy, gallantly repulsing the enemy on every point. But the small force under his command, worn out by the necessity of being night and day under arms,—and by their constant exertions in repelling the attempts of the invaders, were unable to continue longer, a successful opposition; and favoured, as we are told, by a night of unusual darkness, the parliamentary troops effected a landing in St. Ouen's bay. Opposition in the open country to so superior a force was impossible; and the governor therefore confined his operations to the defence of the strongholds. Two of these however, the fort of St. Aubin and Mont Orgueil, surrendered almost without resistance; and Sir George de Carteret shut himself up in Elizabeth Castle, with his little band of between three and four hundred fighting men, and accompanied also, by some of the principal inhabitants. Here, an obstinate defence was maintained; but the castle being commanded by the eminence upon which Fort Regent is now built, it was bombarded from that quarter; and after a time, Sir George and his little garrison were reduced to the utmost distress.

In this extremity, it was resolved to make application to Charles, who was then in France, in the hope that succours might be obtained from that kingdom; but these being refused by the French minister, the king advised De Carteret to capitulate. This advice, so brave a man as De Carteret was unwilling to follow; and for a while, he concealed the king's message from his followers, and continued the defence of

the castle. At length however, increasing difficulties shewed him the necessity of yielding to circumstances; and an honourable capitulation was entered into. This castle is said to have been the last of the king's strongholds that yielded to his enemies.

Guernsey was reduced at the same time, after an obstinate resistance.

There is reason to believe, on the authority of authentic documents, that while Charles resided in France, it was at one time in contemplation to mortgage or sell the islands of the Channel to France. Clarendon says, "his majesty was so strict and punctual in his care of the interest of England, when he seemed to be abandoned by it, that he chose rather to suffer those places of great importance to fall into Cromwell's power, than to deposit them upon any conditions into French hands, which he knew would never restore them to the just owner, what obligations soever, they entered into." And Falle says, "It cannot be denied but the king had it in his power to have so disposed of these islands, if he had pleased." If it were worth while, it would be no difficult matter to shew, how the loyalty of the historian has here blinded his judgment. Let the fact however, stand without comment. The islands were not pledged or sold; and at the restoration, Charles again found them subject to his sceptre.

When this event took place, Jersey experienced the generosity of the monarch who had there experienced so much kindness; and where his cause had been so stoutly and so perseveringly defended. Sir George Carteret was named vice chamberlain of the house-

hold; and obtained a seat in the privy council. The island was confirmed in its privileges; the military defences of the island were strengthened; and the king presented to it, a mace, to be carried before the magistrates on certain occasions. Many as were the faults and vices of the merry monarch, he appears, in his recollection of Jersey, in the light of a grateful man.

These islands now enjoyed a long and uninterrupted tranquillity. It is stated indeed by some writers, that during the reign of Charles II., Jersey was in danger from a secret and treacherous design on the part of France; that the town of St. Malo offered to defray all the charges of an expedition to subjugate the island, on condition that she should be reimbursed by the confiscated estates. But such a story is evidently entitled to no credit. We must now pass to the reign of George III., in which there are some important passages in the history of Jersey; and here it will be necessary to speak somewhat more in detail.

On the first of May 1779, on the breaking out of war between France and England, a hostile fleet appeared in St. Ouen's bay. This armament was freighted with a force of no fewer than from five to six thousand men, commanded by the prince of Nassau. On a landing being attempted, a small body of the seventy-eighth regiment, supported by the island militia and some artillery, hastened to the point, and the enemy, intimidated by the prospect of so warm a reception, returned to their ships, and made sail for St. Brelade, where they next threatened a landing. Here also, the same determination to oppose a landing being manifested, the attempt was relinquished.

Jersey however, was too much coveted by France, not to be the object of new attempts. A second, was frustrated by the French fleet being attacked and destroyed, by Sir James Wallace; but the third and last, and most formidable attempt, requires to be spoken of more in detail.

On one of the days at the close of December 1780, two thousand French troops were embarked at Granville, under the orders of baron de Rullecourt, who, it is believed, calculated upon carrying the island by a coup de main,—conceiving that at the merry time of Christmas, the islanders would be occupied with their festivities; and perhaps even, overcome by inebriety. It was stormy weather when the French armament quitted Granville; and by the separation of some, and the loss of others of his transports, his force was reduced to twelve hundred—and with these troops, after having been forced to put back into port, and having been there detained several days by stress of weather, he finally set sail on the 5th of January 1781, and made the shore of Jersey about an hour before midnight. The part of the coast at which he chanced to arrive,—impelled thither by the current —for it was not the spot he would have selected, was "Le Banc de Vielet;" a ledge of low rocks, only exposed at ebb tide, lying at the S. E. corner of the island. The tide was unpropitious, and the landing dangerous; several of the smaller vessels were wrecked, and scarcely more than 700 were safely disembarked. It is said, that Rullecourt had in his service a Jerseyman, who was well skilled in the difficulties of the coast; and indeed, it is improbable, that without

such assistance, any successful landing could have been effected.

The French having taken possession of a small battery of guns, and leaving a detachment with the boats, to secure a retreat in case of need, marched towards St. Helier, where they arrived without interruption, or even discovery. Entering the town, they took possession of the market-place, killing the sentinel, and surprising the guard; and at daybreak, the inhabitants found the market-place filled with French soldiers; and the town, apparently in peaceable possession of an enemy. The details of the event with which I am at present occupied, are given so fully, and, as far as I have ascertained, so accurately, in Mr. Plees' history of Jersey, that I make his narrative of facts, the basis of my detail.

Major Moses Corbet, was at this time lieutenant-governor of Jersey; and the enemy having surrounded his house, surprised him in bed, and made him prisoner. It appears, however, that he contrived notwithstanding, to send intelligence of the events that had taken place, to the different regiments which were quartered in the island. Rullecourt, it would appear, was resolved to make the most of the advantage he had obtained; and knowing that it would be impossible to retain it, with the handful of men under him, by mere force of arms, he had recourse to stratagem. He represented to Major Corbet, the inutility of resistance: he informed him that he had disembarked 4000 men, at different points, two battalions of whom were in the neighbourhood of the town; and that he had already made prisoners of the British troops stationed

at La Roque; and he at the same time drew up and produced articles of capitulation, which he laid before Major Corbet for his signature. Though stratagem is considered fair in war, the rule will not, I think, cover deliberate falsehood; and this is the only apology that can be offered for Major Corbet's compliance with the demand of Rullecourt; for he of course never could for a moment have imagined, that a French general would attempt to obtain an advantage by means so unworthy. At the same time too, that Rullecourt laid the capitulation before Major Corbet, he declared his intention of burning the town and shipping, and of putting the inhabitants to the sword, in case his terms were not instantly acceded to. This declaration, however, in place of weighing with the governor in favour of yielding compliance, ought to have given rise to suspicion; not only because such a threat was unusual; but because, if the French general had, as he asserted, so superior a force in the island, and had already disarmed a part of the British soldiery, there would have been no necessity for this mode of proceeding. There was altogether too, a secresy about the manner of conducting the negotiation, and a haste, that might naturally have excited doubt. In fact, Major Corbet appears to have been a man deficient in that strength of mind, as well as in that military penetration, which would have enabled another differently gifted, to escape the snare which was laid for him. It is true, that Major Corbet at first refused to sign the capitulation; but when Rullecourt, laying, as it is said, his watch on the table, said, if the capitulation were not signed within half an hour, he would carry his threats

into effect, he yielded. The king's advocate however, and the constable, who it would appear were also prisoners, refused their signatures. At the same time that this important affair was settled, the French general issued a proclamation in the name of the king of France, requiring the submission of the islanders, and containing the usual promises of protection and threats of punishment; and produced also, a commission from his master, appointing him governor of Jersey. The shops were ordered to be opened,—and business to proceed as usual; and in fact, the new governor appears to have acted, as if he were master of the island.

In proceeding thus however, he had calculated upon the effect of Major Corbet's order, which had been despatched to the different corps, desiring them to remain in their quarters; as well as on the notice of capitulation, which he had sent to Elizabeth Castle; though it is difficult to conceive, what reasonable expectations Rullecourt could have had, of long maintaining his advantage with the trifling force under his command. It appears however, that the orders despatched by Major Corbet, did not produce the effects which the French general calculated upon. The officers of the different corps, understanding that Major Corbet was a prisoner, did not consider his orders binding: accordingly, they advanced upon the town—and the island militia also, promptly assembling, joined the regulars.

After Major Corbet had sent notice of capitulation to the castle, a part of the French troops headed by the commander,—who, it is said, held Major Corbet

by the arm,—left St. Helier, to take possession of the stronghold; but upon the column advancing, the discharge of cannon shewed Rullecourt, that Major Corbet's order had not been obeyed. Rullecourt was forced to retire: and a second officer was despatched to the castle, with a written copy of the capitulation, and a peremptory order from Major Corbet, to surrender to the French. But this order was alike disregarded.

Meanwhile, the whole of the regular forces, together with the island artillery, all under the command of Major Pierson of the 95th regiment, upon whom the chief command had devolved, were concentrated on the heights above the town; and soon after, they began to descend Gallows' Hill,—an eminence within half a mile of the town, to the westward. It now became apparent to Rullecourt, that he was not to succeed by stratagem; though he still made one more effort; for on the British troops advancing, he sent an officer to Major Pierson, to endeavour still to effect the capitulation. A truce of half an hour was acceded to; and at the same time the adjutant of the 95th regiment was sent to demand the liberation of the lieutenant governor. When introduced to the presence of Rullecourt and Major Corbet, the latter was asked, if he were a prisoner; to which he is said to have replied in the negative,—a reply incapable of being justified on any ground: and all hope of negotiation being now ended, Rullecourt prepared to effect his purpose by means more creditable to a soldier, than by the falsehood and stratagem which had proved unavailing.

It is recorded, that the island militia at this time could scarcely be restrained from going into action; and that Major Pierson found it difficult to govern their ardour. The restraint imposed upon them, was however, necessary; for several companies had been despatched to take possession of the hill on the other side of the town,—that upon which Fort Regent is now erected. The time for an advance, however, arrived; the British and island troops entered the town, marching directly towards the market place, where the French were posted; and Major Pierson, while leading on his troops, received a wound which proved instantly fatal. For a moment, the enemy had the advantage; but the British troops speedily rallied, and drove the enemy before them. Rullecourt, for a while continued the combat, holding, as it is said, the lieutenant governor by the arm: but his troops were everywhere repulsed; he himself received a mortal wound; and the remnant surrendered themselves prisoners.

Thus terminated this attempt,—which cost many brave men their lives, and Major Corbet his honour. He was shortly afterwards brought to a court martial, and superseded, as he deserved.

To this little sketch I have nothing to add. During the long wars in which England was subsequently engaged, the Channel Islands, although often menaced, were never attacked. The mighty projects of Napoleon left him little leisure for small designs; and he who contemplated the subjugation of Britain, may be supposed to have overlooked spots, which he is said to have designated stepping stones.

ALDERNEY.

CHAPTER I.

Difficult access to Alderney—Narrative of the Voyage—Terrors of the Race, and the Swinge.

NOTHING can be more different, than the associations which the mention of Alderney gives rise to, in the mind of an Englishman, and in the mind of an inhabitant of any of the Channel Islands. To the former, it calls up images of green tranquil meadows, dotted with innumerable cattle—those beautiful little cows, so much prized in the English dairy,—with pleasant thoughts of milk, and cream, and butter, and pails, and milking maids. To the latter, it is instantly associated with images of a very opposite description, —with the fearful "race of Alderney," and as much dreaded "swinge;" with unstemable tides, and conflicting currents, and rocks, and storms, and perils of every description. Let it be my task, to arbitrate among these conflicting fancies.

It is certainly most true, that Alderney is difficult of access: I myself made several attempts to reach it,

without success; and it often happens, that one is detained in the island for weeks, owing to the difficulty and danger of navigating its shores, unless in certain favourable states of wind and tide. The race, is on the south side, between Alderney and the French coast; the swinge on the north side, between Alderney and another island, called Berhou; and through both of these, the tide runs from six to seven knots an hour. The swinge too, which must be passed by all vessels from England, or the other islands, is narrow and full of rocks; and the coast of Alderney on both sides, is a congregation of projecting cliffs and isolated rocks. The tides and currents too, are not only impetuous; but require to be thoroughly understood; so that Alderney can only be approached with safety, under the guidance of a skilful mariner; and under a favourable union of wind and tide.

These difficulties have certainly in no small degree, affected the prosperity of Alderney: strangers are naturally unwilling to run unnecessary risks; and the steam vessels, which ply between England, and the other Channel Islands, grudgingly consent to call at Alderney: and it has even occasionally happened, that passengers trusting to the qualified promise of the master, have been carried to England, or to the other islands,—the approach to Alderney having been found to be impracticable.

I made out my voyage to Alderney in the month of March; not certainly the most favourable month for excursions in the Channel: but after a succession of gales from the west, the wind shifted to the east; and this, affording a tolerable prospect of fine weather, I

resolved to take advantage of it. I hired at Guernsey, a roomy open boat, of fourteen feet keel, and manned by three fishermen, for which I paid 2*l.* 10*s.*; and started with fair wind and tide, soon after breakfast. The usual conveyance, is by an Alderney cutter, of about forty tons burden; three of which, trade between the islands: but I incline to think an open boat, of good dimensions, manned by sailors familiar with the navigation, not much less secure; and it has besides, the advantage of oars, in case of wind and tide failing.

During the first half of our voyage, the light breeze with which we started, continued; but it then began to fall short; and at length we had to take to our oars, with a dead calm: and with only two oars, and a heavy boat, no very rapid progress could be made. Although, however, the prospect of an early arrival, and daylight through the swinge, was none of the brightest,—the prospect around was beautiful. The whole expanse of the sea, was one field of crystal, slightly undulating, and perfectly smooth, unless where here and there, a little wandering air just rumpled the surface into almost imperceptible wavy lines,—and then dying away, again left it like a mirror. Sometimes these little airs travelled across our path, fluttering in our sails, which we kept up, to catch every help; and then for a few moments, the gurgling sound would tell that we were making a little way; and the sailors would rest on their oars,—and whistle to the winds, which, as our poet says, "came not." Alderney yet a far way off, presenting a bold square front, lay before us; yet farther behind, and scarcely perceptible, Guernsey; and Sark: to the right in a

long low curve, stretched the French coast, terminating in Cape La Hogue; and about six miles to the left, were seen the Casket light houses, whose white towers, erected on the formidable rocks against whose perils they are the guarantee, seemed like dwellings, resting on the ocean. There is a feeling of great solitariness, and even, of solemnity begotten, in looking around, from the cross bench of a small boat, almost out of sight of land.

I dare say the boatmen felt nothing of this. As the sun got lower, they tugged the harder,—anxious as they said, to make Alderney before dark: not on their account, but on mine; for supposing I had heard a good deal of the dangers of Alderney, they probably concluded, that I was not perfectly at my ease; and they kept now and then repeating to me, in their own indifferent French, "*Monsieur, jour et nuit, c'est la même chose pour nous,*"—that was to say, that they knew the navigation so well, that it signified nothing whether it was dark or light when they got into the swinge. For my part never having seen the swinge, I felt no great dread of it; and it was so calm, and mild, and beautiful, that darkness seemed scarcely to have any thing of terror in it.

Notwithstanding all the exertions we made, it fell almost dark before we reached the coast; and when we entered the swinge, there was just light enough to see that its dangers had not been exaggerated. Suddenly, from the calmest water, we were plunged into an ugly plashy sea; dancing and breaking, as if there were rocks not a foot from the surface. I was just able to see, that in some places, there were currents,

like cataracts; and in others, singular wide hollows and eddies like whirlpools; while at no great distance, I could occasionally perceive the black heads of rocks, appearing and disappearing, as the swell of the troubled sea rose and fell among them; and still the boatmen continued their consolatory sentence, "*jour et nuit, c'est la même chose pour nous.*" It soon became as dark as it is on any March moonless night; but I felt secure in the knowledge and skill of the boatmen: and about an hour after dark, something black, and square, and high, appeared on our bow, which turned out to be the back of the harbour, which we soon after—but apparently with great straining at the oars—safely entered: and from what the boatmen now told me, I had reason to congratulate myself, not on escape from danger,—for I do not suppose there was any; but from considerable inconvenience. Owing to our protracted voyage, the tide had already began to turn; and if we had been half an hour later, or had not been favoured by a light breeze which sprung up when it fell dark, no efforts could have carried us into Alderney; and we should have been obliged to have submitted to be carried again through the swinge as we came; aud to have passed the night as we best could.

Alderney does not boast of inns; there is indeed, the "Jolly Tar" close to the harbour; but having learnt that there was a respectable lodging house in the town,—which lies up a steep ascent, about half a mile from the harbour,—thither I accordingly walked, preceded by my boatmen, who had charge of the mail from Guernsey. I had no great difficulty in finding

out the house I was in quest of; and by the aid of a good fire, a cup of tea, and a bit of bacon, the terrors of the swinge were speedily forgotten.

CHAPTER II.

The Harbour—Proposed Naval Station—Early Habits in Alderney—The Town of St. Anne, and its Population—Ride into the Country—General Aspect of Alderney—Small Properties—Husbandry—The Common—Vraic Gathering, and the Solemnities attending it—The Alderney Cow—Other Animals.

Next morning betimes, I began my inspection of the island, by walking down to the harbour, which the darkness had prevented me from seeing the night before. It is called the Braye, and is very far from being either safe, or convenient. The smallest boats are attached to the pier, by strong chain cables; for so great is the agitation of the sea within the harbour, that the safety of the little vessels could not otherwise be secured. In stormy weather indeed, the sea makes a breach right over the pier into the harbour; and the effects of this are seen, in the appearance of the pier, which seems like a congregation of rough stones; for all attempts to fill up the interstices, and render the surface smooth, have been found unavailing; since with the first storm, everything is washed clean away, and the pier restored to its original nakedness.

There has been some talk of constructing a deep water harbour, fit for the reception of frigates, on

another part of the coast: and certainly, if any one of the Channel Islands is to be chosen for the construction of a naval station, as a defence of the Channel trade, Alderney is the most advantageously situated. Neither of the other islands could offer so effectual a check upon Cherbourg, which lies within two or three hours' sail of Alderney; and in case of a blockade of that part of the French coast, the strong north-easter, which if it chanced to rise, would drive the fleet to England, would then only force it into the Alderney station,—ready on a favourable change of wind, to resume the blockade in a couple of hours. It has been ascertained, that a sum of 100,000*l.* would be required, to construct a deep water harbour at Alderney; and it is obvious, that the construction of such a work, would be utterly useless, unless a strong fortress were also erected to protect it. Alderney, not otherwise worth the cost of an expedition to capture it, would, with its deep water harbour, become an object worthy of acquisition to France; and if we may suppose that the cost of a fortress might be one-sixth of the cost of Fort Regent, Jersey, these two works could not be constructed in Alderney, at an expense to the English nation, of less than from 250,000*l.* to 300,000*l.* It is certain however, that if the British government should ever seriously contemplate the establishment of a naval station in the Channel Islands, it is Alderney, upon which the distinction must be conferred.

The people of Alderney are an early people in their habits. When I returned from my walk to the harbour, about half-past seven, I found my breakfast

waiting, and the family breakfast already over. The usual hours among the middle classes, are, breakfast a little after seven; dinner at twelve; tea at four; supper at half-past seven, and bed at nine, or but a little later.

In many respects the town of St. Anne, brought to my recollection St. Hubert, in the forest of Ardennes; both in the manners of the people, and in the aspect of the town. In both, the hours of rising, eating, and going to bed are the same. In both, the respectable inhabitants may be seen strolling about in loose surtouts, and some with caps, in place of hats. In both, the respectable inhabitants consist of the same class of persons,—the few local magistrates, or judges, the king's officers, the minister, and the surgeon. Then there are two or three tradespeople, and the post-mistress,—a most important personage in a community like this; and the two or three officials: and so far, the resemblance is complete. In walking up the street too, and looking about me, I almost fancied myself in St. Hubert. The pavement is in much the same condition; the houses are much upon a par. Every good house,—and these are thinly scattered,—is sure to belong to a judge, or an official: and although one misses the stately cathedral of St. Hubert—so much apparently out of place there,—government house in St. Anne's—almost as stately an edifice—appears to be quite as much out of place.

There is one peculiarity about St. Anne's, Alderney. The town is rather a congregation of farm houses, than a town. Almost every other house has its yard, byres and out-houses; and the reason of this

is, that all, or almost all, the inhabitants of the island, live in the town; and consequently, being with scarcely an exception, land-owners, they are forced to have much the same establishments, which farmers have, who live in the country. This makes the town appear larger than it is; and it has also the effect of making it seem particularly deserted; for everybody's business lies in the country; and at a time when field labour is required, scarcely any one is left in town. But before speaking of the people, I must carry the reader with me into the country, that we may look at the general external features of the island.

The general aspect of Alderney is less pleasing than curious. There used to be,—and the distinction is still partly correct,—the cultivated and the uncultivated part of the island. Of the latter I shall speak by and by; but my first ride, was over the cultivated land,—or as it is called in Alderney, the Blaye. The appearance of this part of the island is singular,—owing to the very minute properties, and the odd way in which the proprietors have sown their crops. It is all laid out in narrow stripes of different sorts of grain; and in lucerne, potatos, clover, tares, &c. These lie in all different directions, straight across, and transversely; and to so great an extent has the division of property descended, that in looking at a proprietor ploughing his strip, it is difficult to see how he will find room to turn his plough on his own land. The ploughs which I saw at work, were small wheel ploughs, worked by three horses and two men.

The total absence of farm houses and cottages, occasioned by all the inhabitants living in the town,—

and the almost total absence of trees or plantations of any kind, give to the island, a bare and deserted aspect. Still, under a bright sun, there is beauty any where; and the spangled grass, and furze hedges, covered with their bright and fragrant blossoms; and the song of innumerable larks; and the pretty cows tethered among their clover, were sufficient for any traveller, unless for the churl who can walk from Dan to Beersheba, and say, "it is all barren." I cannot understand however, why Alderney is so barren of wood,—unless it be, that the properties are too small to permit any systematic planting. It cannot arise from the difficulty of getting wood to grow; for the elevation of the table land of Serk is greatly higher than that of Alderney; and trees grow upon it abundantly and luxuriantly.

In the course of my ride, I visited the remains of an edifice, which in Alderney is called Essex Castle, because they say it was built by the noble and unfortunate earl of that name,—a tradition, which I believe has little or nothing to support it. I also caught glimpses of rock scenery in several quarters. It is striking, and worth a nearer visit; but as the rock scenery of Serk is greatly superior, and as in the account of Serk which follows this, I speak of it at some length, I refrain from enlarging upon the rock scenery of Alderney.

I have mentioned the uncultivated part of Alderney. This was formerly a common, which extended over nearly one half of the island; and was used for pasture, as well as for the cutting of turf for fuel. This common has lately been enclosed and partitioned

among the whole inhabitants. About one-third of it is already in a state of cultivation; and it is believed, that another third is capable of being cultivated. There cannot be a doubt, but that this measure will be productive of benefit to Alderney: and it is certain, that since its adoption, the population has considerably increased. Government has reserved to itself, parts of the common; particularly, one elevated mound of considerable extent, at the north-west point of the island, with the view of constructing a fortification upon it. I believe this mound commands the point where there has been talk of constructing a naval station.

The agriculture of Alderney, I should say is quite upon a level with that of Jersey and Guernsey; and the crops of all kinds are excellent. I understood that no crops of lucerne can be finer than those raised in Alderney, and that too, upon the poorest sandy soil; upon which also, potatos are largely cultivated; and the people of Alderney assert, that their potatos bring a higher price in the English market, than those of either Jersey or Guernsey, owing to their superior quality. The wheat grown in Alderney, is not sufficient for its consumption: though it is probable, that the cultivation of the common, may lead to a different result. Parsnips and barley are both cultivated,—though not to any great extent; and oats are scarcely cultivated at all. There is a good deal of spade husbandry in Alderney; and the land, which is for the most part of a light sandy soil, is very frequently manured, chiefly with fresh sea-weed,—which however, is sometimes mixed with earth and stable dung.

It is singular, that the Alderney people do not burn their vraic; especially since the division of the common has restrained the free use of turf as a fuel. It is also singular, that cow dung is not unfrequently employed as fuel.

Vraic, as a manure, is quite as much prized in Alderney, as in the sister islands; and vraic-gathering is as important an affair. Indeed, it is ushered in with greater solemnity in Alderney, than in either Jersey or Guernsey. The evening before that appointed for the vraic-gathering, the church bell rings at six o'clock; which is the signal for all who are interested in vraic-gathering (i. e.) all the inhabitants of the island who are owners of land,—to assemble in the church-yard; and there the important point is discussed, whether all are ready to commence the next morning. Any sufficient cause that may prevent any one individual from joining in the vraic-gathering, would be held a sufficient reason for postponing the day; because the liberty of gathering vraic, is too valuable a privilege, to be unequally enjoyed. If no one demurs, the day is considered to be fixed; and all retire, to prepare, by an early retirement to rest, for the labours of the next morning. It chanced to be vraic-gathering, when I visited Alderney; and at high water, in the morning, the great bay fronting the south, was lined with a dense semi-circle of eager islanders, waiting the moment, when the retreating tide should leave the rich prize within their reach.

But it is time that I should say a few words of the Alderney cow, by which, indeed, the island is chiefly known in England.

In my first ride into the country, my notions of Alderney were disappointed. I did not see, as I had expected, the little cows everywhere dotting the land. The part of the country, however, into which I rode, was not that where they are mostly to be found; and besides, their stature being so very low, the stone walls, which form so many of the enclosures, conceal them from the view. In my subsequent rides, however, I often paused and drew up my horse, to look over the walls, at these pretty little creatures, whose beauty and qualities, have immortalized their native island. My attention was particularly directed to some acknowledgedly fine specimens; and to me they seemed well to deserve the encomiums that were passed upon them. I found it, however, everywhere admitted, that there is but very little distinction between the Alderney, and the best specimens of the Jersey cow. The Guernsey cow, though also of the same breed, is a larger animal; and in the opinion of many, finer, though certainly not more comely to the eye.

I had been told in the other islands, that the true Alderney breed, such as I should find it in Alderney, is black and white: but I did not find that the people of Alderney adopted this criterion of purity of breed. Red and white, and brown and white, I found equally common; and the choicest specimens shewn to me, were white, and reddish chocolate colour; but not with too great a preponderance of white. The Alderney people look more to the short curved horns, than to the colour: and it was stated to me by a gentleman who had paid great attention to the subject,

that there is no indication of a true Alderney cow so certain, as prominent sparkling eyes: and in this, the Alderney cow offers a strong contrast to other cows; for the eye of a cow is generally of a tranquil and sleepy expression.

The cow in Alderney is almost invariably tethered, as in the other islands; and is milked three times a day. Many instances of extraordinary produce came to my knowledge. I heard of two cows, which produced each 10 lbs. of butter per week, 18 oz. to the lb. I even heard of another, which had produced 14 lbs. of butter per week. Major Baines, the present governor of Alderney, to whom I had the pleasure of presenting a letter of introduction, and whose kindness I am happy to acknowledge, informed me, that he had a cow, which yielded twenty-five quarts of milk per day. These are certainly extraordinary instances of productiveness; but my general inquiries do not warrant me in asserting, that the cow now met with in Alderney, is any way superior, as a milcher, to the cow of Jersey and Guernsey. If it be fair to draw any inference from the quality of the butter, it would be an unfavourable one for Alderney, where I found no butter equal to that of Guernsey.

Scarcely any observation is required respecting the other domestic animals. The horses appear to be indifferent; but in the rearing of hogs, the islanders are very successful. I was informed, that it is no uncommon occurrence for a hog to weigh more than a well fed cow: but as this might be a proof of the smallness of the cow, as well as of the size of the hog, I may state, that the weight of some of the hogs has reached

500 pounds. I saw more sheep on Alderney, than on Jersey or Guernsey: they are small, rough, and black faced; and appeared to be but indifferently attended to.

CHAPTER III.

The People of Alderney—their Character and Habits—Improvidence and Feasting—Fishing—Expenditure, and Mode of Life—How Time is passed—Party Spirit, and Litigiousness—The Climate of Alderney—Health and Disease, and Rate of Mortality.

In this chapter I proceed to speak of the people. I have already said, that properties in Alderney are extremely small; and here, where there is not as in Jersey, or even in Guernsey, a regular trade to take off superabundant hands, and to offer some temptation to those who have not a sufficient patrimonial inheritance, the minute division of property leads to bad results; for, where no patrimony whatever can possibly descend to a child, he is sent out into the world, to push his fortune; whereas, where there is some inheritance of land, however trifling, one is not fond of deserting it; and when, after some experience, it is found that the owner cannot be supported by it, he falls into whatever calling is the readiest and most likely to better his fortune. This happens unfortunately to be the smuggling trade; for Alderney has none other.

In the other islands, few are either very rich, or very poor; but in Alderney, for the word "few," *nobody*, may be substituted. Scarcely any one possesses more than thirty vergèes of land: and the owners live almost exclusively on the produce of their soil. There is one striking difference in the character of the inhabitants of Alderney, and of the other Channel Islands. The parsimony of Jersey and Guernsey, is nowhere to be seen. Indeed, in place of parsimony, improvidence rather, is a characteristic of the people. This, I should think, is to be ascribed to the effect of the smuggling trade. "Light come light go," is the rule of action; and the pound that is easily earned,—easily at least, to those who are accustomed to a sea life—is spent on any holiday afternoon. This regardlessness of expenditure, certainly enters into the general character of the people; for although all are not smugglers, yet many have been at one time or another, indirectly connected with the trade; and besides, the example of profuseness is contagious: I learnt from undeniable authority, that nothing is so rare, as to find the country people grow rich by saving, as they are wont to do in the other islands. The great occasion for spending money, is at weddings. As much is spent at such times in one day, as would support the new married pair for a year. All relations are bidden to the feast; and when I mention, that an individual lately died, leaving behind him, four hundred and sixteen nephews, nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces, it will easily be credited that such entertainments are not given for nothing.

Some of the inhabitants unite the trade of agriculture, with that of fishing; but this latter branch is not very lucrative, nor indeed, very successful. The fish chiefly caught, are rock fish, whiting and conger eel, —considerable quantities of which, are salted and laid up for winter stock. The lobster too, is also abundant, and forms an article of export to England. They are not unusually purchased by contract for the London market, at sixpence a piece, if they are eleven inches long; and for all under that size, the half of this price is given.

The mode of life in Alderney, is primitive; though I should say, less so than in Serk, or even than in the inland parts of Jersey and Guernsey, which may easily be accounted for from the fact, that all the inhabitants are congregated in one place, by which, improved habits are acquired, by the influence and example of those who practise them. The absence too of that parsimony which is so much the rule of conduct in the other islands, makes the formation of superior habits easier; and it is a fact, that the "soupe à la graisse" diet, is not the favourite one in Alderney.

Although however, the business of life in Alderney is not to heap up wealth, and although profuseness is more common than parsimony, it is impossible to spend much. With the exception of the governor, nobody spends 300*l.* per annum; and among the most respectable classes, the more usual expenditure is from 100*l.* to 150*l.* per annum. Even this limited expenditure can command a great deal in Alderney. A tolerable house may be had for 10*l.*, or at most 15*l.* a

year. Meat, and poultry, are both somewhat under Guernsey prices; and the article of dress, costs little, where nobody thinks of dress, and where there are no critics on the cut of a coat, and where the milliner has no customers. There is no doubt emulation in Alderney however, as well as elsewhere; and a smart bonnet, though home made, will doubtless create a sensation in the street, or in the church of St. Anne. There are a few English residents in Alderney,—officers on half pay,—who contrive to vegetate in this remote spot, apart from the din of the world, and only solicitous to get through life, on the pittance which they have earned in the service of their country. Singular contrast, between the stirring scenes of a camp, and the quiet monotony of this remote and primitive isle!

The chief resource of those who are not wholly occupied with agricultural pursuits, and who belong to the upper class, is the club. There, at most hours of the day, little coteries of the male population of Alderney may be found, smoking, drinking brandy and water, and talking of such topics as island events afford,—or, if a mail chance to have arrived,—of the events that agitate larger communities. Reading is almost unknown. There is not a library or a book society in the island,—and but few books. Indeed so little taste is there for reading, that only one individual (the governor) takes advantage of the facilities offered by the public library of Guernsey, and the frequent intercourse with that island. Let me not be misunderstood, as including the clergyman in this condemnation. The Rev. Mr. Lys, a most intelligent and most

worthy man, to whom I am happy in acknowledging myself under infinite obligations, finds, in the wants of a very extensive parish, and in the pleasing, but necessary cares of a rising family, sufficient occupation for all his hours. Having mentioned the clergyman, I may add, that he is paid by a salary from the crown,—the only tithe to which he is entitled, being a tithe of fish, —which however, is always compounded for. The church, embraces almost the whole population of Alderney; the only exception being a few Wesleyans, who have a meeting house in the town. The church of St. Anne is a plain, ancient, English looking edifice, with its tower and clock; and is large enough to contain nearly a thousand persons. The island belongs to the deanery of Guernsey, and the diocese of Winchester.

Will it be believed, that even in this little community, room is found for party spirit? yet such is the truth; and as a familiar illustration of its intensity, I may state, that recently on the appointment of two churchwardens, they refused to act with each other, owing to the division of party. I will not attempt to explain in what way the distinction arises, or how it is maintained; it is too ridiculous to merit any notice. The people are also litigious; and are seldom satisfied without an appeal from the judicature of the island. I was told however, that law suits were formerly more common than they are now; and that as many as seventeen cases, have been known to be entered in one day.

The climate of Alderney, is less agreeable, though certainly not less healthful, than the climates of the

other islands. Its more northerly position, situated almost opposite to Cape La Hogue, where the French coast swerves to the east, leaves the island exposed to the north-east winds, and fogs, that sweep down the Channel; while the absence of wood, leaves the course of the winds unbroken. There is scarcely a rood of land throughout the island, that is not exposed to every wind that blows; for the only shelter is the stone walls, here and there used as enclosures. There are no deep sheltered valleys in the island, as in Jersey, or even, as in Serk. There is low, and high ground indeed; but the hollows are wide and open, and do not lie in the centre of the island; but towards the shores. It is not to be expected therefore, that the more delicate fruits and flowers, will attain in Alderney, the perfection which they reach in the sister islands. Under glass however, almost the same results may be attained; since the rate of temperature in Alderney, cannot be much lower than it is in Guernsey.

But it does not appear, that the winds, or even the occasional fogs of Alderney, affect in any degree, the duration of human life. From the inquiries which I made, and the authentic information which I received, I am indeed justified in saying, that disease is rare, life long, and mortality low. Upon this subject, I will state a few facts received by me from the Rev. Mr. Lys,—and which, I think, will bear me out in the opinion which I have ventured to express.

The population of the parish of St. Anne, may be stated at 1100.

The number of baptisms during the last ten years, was 295.

The number of deaths (not reckoning 15 from shipwreck, and falling down the cliffs) was 201; which is 20 per annum, on a population of 1100; not quite two per cent.

But there is one very remarkable fact, connected with life and death in this island. It is, that there are a greater number of deaths amongst the old, than amongst the young; and that between the ages of 70 and 80, there are a greater number of deaths, than during any previous ten years of human life.

The following is a comparative statement of deaths, occurring in a population of 1100, during each ten successive years, from the age of 1 to 100.

From 1	to	10	36
„ 10	-	20	16
„ 20	-	30	16
„ 30	-	40	16
„ 40	-	50	20
„ 50	-	60	21
„ 60	-	70	15
„ 70	-	80	40
„ 80	-	90	16
„ 90	-	100	5

The greatest number of deaths therefore, takes place between 70 and 80; and as many die between 80 and 90, as in any ten years betwixt 10 and 40.

I found that nearly the same diseases were prevalent in Alderney as in the other islands; rheumatism being however, less universal; and consumption rather more frequent.

In personal appearance, the inhabitants of Alderney do not differ from the natives of the other islands.

CHAPTER IV.

Trade and Smuggling—Civil Government of the Island—Small Economy—The Militia—Views—The Caskets—The Island of Berhou—The Petrel—The Burrowing Bee.

ALDERNEY has now no trade, excepting merely that which is created by the wants of the island; and the remnant of an illicit traffic. The only exports are potatos; and lobsters during the season. There is still a considerable import of British manufactured goods, which find their way into France—some say, to the extent of 50,000*l.* per annum. I have reason to believe however, that this is an exaggeration; though it is certain that this trade is carried on, with advantage to those concerned in it, and without much hindrance or danger. In the article of tea, too, there is a small illicit trade: it is brought from France, and is disposed of without difficulty, in Jersey and Guernsey, but chiefly in the latter island.

The import of spirits into Alderney, is considerable. I have before me, a document furnished to me by Mr. Gaudion, the king's procureur, by which it appears that from January, 1833, to January, 1834, 8049 gallons were retailed and consumed in the island. This is an immense consumption for so small a population, giving nearly thirty gallons per annum, to

every upgrown male person. But spirit is the only liquor drank in Alderney. There is no cider, and no beer; and brandy and water, therefore, is the only substitute. In Alderney, as in the other islands, there is an impôt, or duty on spirit, of one shilling per gallon. This, in Alderney, amounts to about 400*l.* per annum, which is applied towards improvements in the island.

The constitution of Alderney is similar to that of Guernsey. It consists of an assembly called the States; and of a court of judicature, which however, has no jurisdiction in criminal cases, all such being tried in Guernsey. The states are composed of the six jurats; of the governor who has no vote, and of the douzainier, who are merely consulted, but have not as in Guernsey, any voice. The States and the Court, are in fact therefore the same. The jurats are elected by the rate payers; and from all I could learn, justice is pretty impartially administered; though of course under all the disadvantages which result from an elective magistracy—especially where the electors are ignorant, and the elected, eligible without qualification.

I have already mentioned government-house, and the name of the present governor. The emoluments of the office are extremely trifling—certainly not covering the additional expenditure necessarily attendant on the office. And here, I cannot help observing, that in selecting Alderney for retrenchments, government has made a singular choice. The utmost saving that can be effected there, is pitiful, in comparison with what might be done in the other islands. Will

it be believed, that the garden belonging to the government-house, and which reaches up to the windows of the house, has been taken from Major Baines, and let on the behalf of government, at the magnificent sum of 8*l.* per annum! This *is* economy. The reason alleged is, that government made a bad bargain with the late hereditary governor, General Mesurier; and that the 700*l.* a year, for which he was tempted to relinquish his patent, must be made up as far as possible, from the revenues of the island. That government made a bad bargain is certain; but it would be well to look to the sinecurists and overpaid persons elsewhere, before an insult is offered to the representative of the British government, to effect a miserable accession of 8*l.* to the treasury.

I must not omit to mention, that there is an island militia, consisting of about 200 men; together with nine pieces of artillery, and seventy artillerymen. The service is extremely popular; and the soldiers pride themselves on their correct shooting,—probably not without some reason; since the number of rabbits and birds, on Alderney, and on the neighbouring island of Berhou, afford sufficient opportunity for practice.

Before quitting Alderney, the reader must accompany me on another ride; for although I have but little more to tell, of Alderney, I have some strange things to tell of the neighbouring island of Berhou; and I must also say something of the Caskets and their light-house, which, both day and night, are so conspicuous from every elevation in Alderney.

In riding for the last time, over the island, some

stone quarries were pointed out to me. They are used only in building; and not being situated close to the sea, it is probable that the expense of carriage would prevent the realization of profit by exportation. I noticed with some surprise, numbers of enormous stones lying imbedded in the sandy soil, on the sides, and even on the top of the hills, where no rocks are to be seen. I do not attempt any explanation of this. I missed in Alderney that abundance of wild flowers, which is so striking and so attractive a feature of the sister islands. Only a few days before, I had seen in Guernsey and Jersey, the banks so covered with primroses, that scarcely could the grass be seen; while on others, were thousands of the single wild daffodil, with its beautiful fringed bell-shaped heart, and pale and fragile petals, and delicate odour; bringing to my recollection Wordsworth's

> Host of dancing daffodils;
> Along the lake, beneath the trees,
> Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.

The seaward view from any of the heights of Alderney, is perhaps, more striking, than from any of the other islands; for the French coast is so near, as in some positions to be easily mistaken for a distant part of the island: and the Casket light-houses also form another object of interest. Alderney too, being situated more on the outside of the great bay, than the other islands, is more in the way of vessels up and down the Channel, especially of the numerous French *chasse marées* that trade between the southern ports and the Baltic; so that, owing to the more frequent vessels, there is greater variety in the sea views

from Alderney than from the other islands. But I must not dismiss the Caskets and their light-houses, with so slight a notice as this. I purposed, had the weather been favourable, to have visited the Caskets, on leaving Alderney; but the wind and tide having made the accomplishment of this purpose impossible, I am obliged to rely for my description, upon such authentic documents and information as were within my reach. This was not difficult; since one intelligent individual with whom I conversed, had visited the Caskets more than twenty times.

The Caskets are well known to all navigators of the English Channel; and ought not to be dismissed in a single sentence,—for however small these rocky islets are, still, they are Channel Islands. The Caskets are about a mile in circumference, and have from 25 to 30 fathoms water round and close to them; so that a line of battle ship may pass safely within an oar's length of the rock. The ripple on the water however, occasioned by the velocity of the tide, is apt to create a suspicion of hidden danger, in those who navigate this part of the Channel for the first time. The rock on which the light-houses are erected, is of a whitish sand stone, and rises about thirty feet above the level of the sea. The three light-houses are built in a triangular direction: the two southernmost are about fifty feet from each other; and the high light-house to the north, is on the most elevated part of the rock, about 150 feet north of the others. A triangular wall incloses the three lights, and forms a parade, gravelled, and kept in good order. The area contains a plot of ground, where a few vegetables and flowers are grown,

on exotic soil; a small house, for the accommodation of the Trinity-house master, when he visits the establishment; with a bakehouse, and conveniences for the workmen, who are occasionally required to make repairs. The two lower light-houses are capacious; and are fitted to contain the store and provisions necessary for winter,—during which season, it would be often impossible to land.

There are two landing places for boats: one, the work of nature, so formed, that a frigate might lie in the little harbour, as in a dock; and here, steps are cut in the rock, and facilities supplied for hauling up boats. The landing places are practicable for boats, only in calm weather. The Caskets are the only triple lights in the Channel. In the year 1744, October 5, the Victory, of 110 guns, commanded by Admiral Sir John Butcher, with eleven hundred sailors and marines, was lost on these rocks.

The glasses are frequently broken in stormy weather, by birds, and by the sea; and in October 1823, a violent storm altogether destroyed the lights.

It will be recollected, that in detailing the particulars of my voyage to Alderney, I made mention of the island of Berhou, which is separated from Alderney by the swinge. This island is peculiarly interesting to the naturalist: for here is found the bird sometimes called the stormy petrel,—and familiarly known to mariners, as mother Carey's chicken. The only other spots among the British isles, where it is to be found, are, the Scilly Isles, and the Calf of Man. It is not difficult on Berhou, to take the bird with the hand: but the attempt, whether successful or not, will be

made at the expense of some unpleasant sensations; for the petrel has the faculty of throwing from the bill, to a considerable distance, a quantity of fœtid oily matter, more than an equivalent for the capture. It is said, I do not know with what truth, that this oil is used medicinally,—and as some say, successfully, in the cure of rheumatism.

But this is not the only object of interest to the naturalist who may visit Berhou. The honey bee, of the species apis centuncularis, is found in the sands of Berhou. Kirby and Spence's account of this singular insect, is so much better than any that I could draw up, that I make no apology for transferring it to my pages. "Apes centunculares, cover the walls of their cells, with a coating of leaves,—generally selecting for their hangings, the leaves of trees, especially the rose, whence they have been known by the name of the leaf-cutter bee. They differ from apis papaveris, in excavating longer burrows, and filling them with several thimble-shaped cells, composed of portions of leaves so curiously convoluted, that if we were ignorant in what school they had been taught to construct them, we should never credit their being the work of an insect. Their entertaining history, so long ago as 1670, attracted the attention of our countrymen, Ray, Lister, Willughby, and Sir Edward King; but we are indebted for the most complete account of their proceedure, to Reaumur.

"The mother bee first excavates a cylindrical hole, eight or ten inches long, in a horizontal direction, either in the ground, or in the trunk of a rotten willow tree, or occasionally, in other decaying wood (in Ber-

hou, these holes are excavated in the ground; indeed, there are neither trees, nor large shrubs in the island). This cavity she fills with six or seven cells, wholly composed of portions of leaf, of the shape of a thimble —the convex end of one closely fitting in the open end of the other. Her first process is, to form the exterior coating, which is composed of three or four pieces of larger dimensions than the rest, and of an oval form. The second coating is formed of portions of equal size; narrow at one end; but gradually widening towards the other, where the width equals half the length. One side of these pieces is the serrate margin of the leaf from which it was taken; which, as the pieces are made to lap, one over the other, is kept on the outside, and that which is cut, within. The little animal now forms a third coating of similar materials; the middle of which, as the most skilful workman would do, in similar circumstances, she places over the margin of those that form the first tube; thus covering, and strengthening the junctures. Repeating the same process, she gives a fourth, and sometimes a fifth coating to her nest,—taking care, at the closed end, or narrow extremity of the cell, to bend the leaves, so as to form a convex termination. Having thus finished a cell, her next business is to fill it, within half a line of the orifice, with a rose-coloured conserve, composed of honey and pollen, usually collected from the flowers of thistles; and then, having deposited her egg, she closes the orifice with three pieces of leaf, so exactly circular, that a pair of compasses could not define their margin with more truth; and coincides so precisely with the walls of the cell

as to be restrained in their situation, merely by the nicety of their adaptation. After this covering is fitted in, there remains still, a concavity, which receives the convex end of the succeeding cell, and in this manner, the indefatigable little animal proceeds, until she has completed the six or seven cells which compose the cylinder. The process which one of these bees employs, in cutting the pieces of leaf that compose her nest, is worthy of attention: nothing can be more expeditious: she is no longer about it, than we should be with a pair of scissors. After hovering for some moments over a rose bush (in Berhou, it is the wild brier, that is laid under contribution) as if to reconnoitre the ground, the bee alights on the leaf which she has selected, usually taking her station upon its edge, so that the margin passes between her legs. With her strong mandibles, she cuts, without intermission, in a curve line, so as to detach a triangular portion. When this hangs by the last fibre, lest its weight should carry it to the ground, she balances her little wings for flight; and the very moment it parts from the leaf, flies off with it in triumph, the detached portion remaing bent between her legs, in a direction perpendicular to her body. Thus, without rule or compasses, do these diminutive creatures mete out the materials for their work, into portions of an ellipsis, into ovals, or circles, accurately accommodating the dimensions of the several pieces of each figure to each other. What other architect could carry impressed on the tablet of his memory, the entire idea of the edifice which he has to erect; and destitute of square or plumb line, cut out his materials in their exact dimensions,

without a single mistake? Yet this is what our little bee invariably does."

This is a long extract, but it is a curious one; and Berhou lies at so small a distance from England, that it is possible some naturalist may visit Alderney purposely to observe the habits of the apis centuncularis.

Berhou is of considerable extent; but is not inhabited, unless by the bee, the petrel, and by a rather extensive colony of rabbits, which are now nearly extinct in Alderney, where they were at one time, equally plentiful as in Berhou.

I had reason to consider myself extremely fortunate in finding, just at the time I could have wished, a happy union of wind and tide, with moderate weather, to undertake the voyage back to Guernsey; though it would have been difficult, if not impracticable, to have reached the Caskets. Indeed, had the weather been such, as to have rendered a passage in an open boat hazardous, it would have been impossible for me to have left the island; since the only decked vessels were engaged in exporting potatos to England. At full tide, and with a fine steady wind, we cleared the pier of Braye, after a little tossing in the extraordinary swell, which, fair weather or foul, always sets into the little harbour. Daylight made the swinge greatly more formidable, than I had found it on the evening I arrived in Alderney; and the stronger wind, and the different direction of it, also increased the agitation of the sea: but we safely navigated this perilous passage; and with the tide in our favour, soon left Alderney a-stern. Viewed from the sea, Alderney is certainly the least captivating of the Channel

Islands; for the rock scenery is insignificant, compared with that of Serk; and the slopes and banks, have neither the charming fertility which distinguishes Jersey, nor the union of a more studied art, with a less bountiful nature, which distinguishes Guernsey: and in leaving the island behind me, I felt that if the English are right in the placid images which the name of Alderney calls up; so also are the inhabitants of the islands, in the ominous shake of the head, with which they listen to one who speaks of visiting the race and the swinge guarded island.

The wind and tide did not permit the boatmen to carry me to St. Peter's Port; and I was contented to be put ashore at the end of a long reef of rocks, at least five miles from the town. I judged, that there might possibly be reasons for this; and that a small speculation in tea, made a direct visit to the town inconvenient.

Harbour le Creux.

SERK.

CHAPTER I.

Singular Access to Serk—General Aspect of the Island—Dells and Valleys—Birds and Flowers—Little Serk, and its Singularities—Anecdote—Rock Scenery of Serk—The "Boutiques."

If Jersey and Guernsey be imperfectly known in England, what shall we say of Serk?—and yet, Serk is one of the most singular and interesting spots that I have ever visited; not merely on account of its natural peculiarities,—but as a social community.

Passing from the southern coast of England to Jersey, or to the coast of Brittany, one perceives on the left, after leaving Guernsey, at the distance of between two and three leagues, the elevated, but even line of an island, of considerable magnitude; for in using this word, it will be recollected I am speaking of the islands of the British Channel, none of which are of great extent. This line, is the line of the table land of Serk: and if one should feel curious to bring Serk a little nearer, and should apply the eye to a telescope, nothing will be seen but a perpendicular, and very rugged wall of rock. But this object, which, by such a glimpse, one might very naturally conclude to be a sterile, and perhaps even uninhabited islet, is covered with luxuriant crops—is diversified with wood —is intersected by roads—is broken into romantic valleys—is spotted with substantial farm houses—and maintains, in comfort and independence, a hardy and industrious population of between 500 and 600.

I had not been long among the Channel Islands, before I visited this interesting spot; provided with a letter of introduction to the lord of Serk, W. Le Pelley, Esq., to whom I take this opportunity of returning my warmest acknowledgments for the valuable information which I received from him, as well as for the hospitalities of his manor house.

It was on a fine July morning, and with a stiff breeze, that my little boat ran under the rocks of Serk; and I confess I was not a little puzzled to understand, where the boatmen intended to put me ashore; for everywhere round the little cove into which we had run, perpendicular rocks rose from the

water, to the height of several hundred feet. However, by the boatmen laying aside his oars, and demanding his fare, I concluded that the voyage had ended; though I could not, for the life of me, understand how my pilot intended to dispose of me.

"That is the way," said he, in his own broken dialect, pointing upward; and upon casting my eyes in the direction of his finger, I perceived a rope-end dangling upon the rock,—and within arm's length of me: and accordingly, concluding this to be the legitimate entrance to the island, I paid my fare,—seized the rope,—and finding resting places for the tiptoe, and sometimes for the sole of the foot, reached by these various helps, and by the aid of the rope, a ledge about forty feet above the water. From this spot, the ascent was somewhat easier, though still requiring a sure foot, and a steady head; and after a toilsome, but interesting scramble of between three and four hundred feet, I found myself on the table land of Serk, with a fine, and apparently level extent before me, of cultivated land, and abundant vegetation.

It must not however be imagined, that there is absolutely no way of gaining the table land of Serk, unless by the precipitous, and somewhat dangerous path, by which I made my entrance. Serk possesses a harbour; though the very least, and most curious, and most picturesque, that can well be imagined; but this little harbour lying on the other side of the island, boatmen from Guernsey prefer making their passengers swing up the side of the rock, to the inconvenience of a longer voyage. This little harbour,

called the Creux, is the only accessible part of the island, accessible however, in a singular way: for when one steps on shore from the harbour, one is still outside of Serk. You have still to pass through a tunnel, about twenty yards in length, beneath the solid rock; and on emerging from it, a winding path up a narrow valley, leads to the table land. The tunnel, or hole, of which I have spoken, appears to have been partly natural, and partly excavated; and I need scarcely say, that it might be defended against almost any attack, either by a very trifling force, or by the application of artificial defences. To detach by gunpowder, a part of the roof, or side of the tunnel, would render Serk inaccessible.

I have seldom spent a few days more to my mind, than those which I spent in Serk; and they were fully occupied,—whether in the contemplation of natural objects,—in observing and talking with the islanders —or in conversation with their respected chief: and I shall make no apology for speaking somewhat in detail, of all that I saw, and learnt, in this interesting, and little known dependency of the British crown. I shall first speak of its general features, and of all that the eye takes cognizance of.

At first sight, one landed on Serk, and looking over it, would take the island to be almost a plain,—a cultivated and enclosed plain,—fertile,—and a grain country: and it is only a part of this impression that is proved to be erroneous, by a nearer survey. It was towards the latter end of July, when I visited Serk; and in walking through it, I everywhere found the heavy wheat crops almost ready for the sickle:

the barley crops had already been gathered. But the first impression, that Serk is a plain, is soon agreeably removed. Although Serk be what is usually called a table land, it is intersected by deep, wooded, romantic valleys; watered by little tumbling brooks. I descended into all of these valleys, dells, and hollows; and found some of them surpassingly beautiful,—singularly contrasting,—in my recollection, with the barren and rocky coast, that so little prepares one for scenes of soft and wooded fertility. In some spots, it is indeed difficult to believe, that one is on a small islet, two or three leagues in circumference. One valley, the valley of Dixcard, is every way a charming spot: it is a winding valley, about a quarter of a mile broad, flanked by hills, that appear lofty, owing to its great depth. Wood in infinite variety, fills the lower part of the valley; cottages with their little gardens, and bit of orchard ground, are scattered in its bosom; while the green sides of the hills, dotted with cattle, entirely shut out the view of the sea; and the rush of the little rivulet by the pathway, as well as the bend of the valley, hinder even the sound of the waves from reaching this sweet seclusion.

Among the many charms of these dells, I must not forget the abundance of singing birds, and the extraordinary profusion of woodbine. Blackbirds, are greatly more numerous here, than in any other of the Channel Islands: from the depth of every hollow, they were sending up their full mellow notes; and as for the honeysuckle, it blossoms thickly upon every hedge, and twines up half the trees that skirt the roads and enclosures; so that its fragrance,—one of

the sweetest I think in nature,—loads every air that blows.

The only part of Serk, that is not under tillage, or some cultivation, is "Little Serk," to which I found my way the first evening of my arrival; and Little Serk, or rather, the access to Little Serk, is one of the wonders of Great Serk. It will be difficult I fear, to convey to the reader a clear understanding of this wonder; but it is necessary that I should make the attempt. Little Serk, as it is called, is a part of, and connected with the island of Serk; and may form perhaps one-eighth part of it; and the singularity is, that at the point of junction, the island is almost cleft in twain. To pass from the larger to the smaller part of the island, you walk along a narrow isthmus,—nearly two hundred yards long, and four or five feet broad, with precipices on either side, of about three hundred feet deep, down to the sea. On one side, the descent is perpendicular; on the other, so precipitous, that one would be more rash than bold in attempting a descent. The connecting ridge is a solid rock.

At one time, the pass was still more dangerous than it now is. In 1811, a small part of the ridge was detached and fell; but before this, the width was not more than two feet. It is related, that an individual who resided in Little Serk, was accustomed very frequently to visit the other part of the island,—one temptation being, to call at the public-house: and that when he returned home at night, he was in the habit of ascertaining, by a certain test, whether he had drunk so much, as to make it imprudent for him to

venture across. This important test of his sobriety was thus practised. During the war, a piece of artillery had been posted close to the point of junction,—and indeed I believe lies there still; and the test by which the tippler ascertained the steadiness of his head, was, to walk on the cannon from end to end, two or three times. If he accomplished his task, he concluded that he was sober enough to venture across the bridge; but if he fell, or slipped over, he then lay down, and slept among the heath, till on awaking, a second trial proved to him the safety of the attempt.

Little Serk differs in its features from the rest of the island: it is, in fact, a fine sheep walk—only that few sheep walk upon it; and it is scarcely, if at all, under tillage; neither is there any wood: but the absence of wood is atoned for, by the beautiful heaths with which the ground is tufted. I have never indeed in a northern latitude, seen any heath so beautiful as that which grows upon Serk. From the elevated part of Little Serk, an extensive view is laid open, comprehending the whole of the Channel Archipelago. Guernsey, with its imposing town, at the distance of three leagues, is distinctly visible; to the south-east, and at the distance of about twenty miles, or somewhat less, Jersey is seen on the horizon; in precisely an opposite direction, the smaller island of Alderney is still less distinctly visible: while nearer at hand, Herm, Jethou, and many still smaller islets, stud the ocean on all sides.

Descending from the table land of Serk to the sea, which may with considerable difficulty be accomplished at one point, by far the finest rock scenery is present-

ed, that is to be found among these islands. Nothing is wanting to form the perfection of the picturesque; and if to the height and threatening aspect of the cliffs, and the hollow bellowing of the sea as it rebounds within the caverns, we add the feeling of solitude, the picturesque rises almost into the sublime.

The Serk people have a singular appellation for the caverns that abound on their shores, they call them *boutiques*; but they are shops which one must enter with caution: they have many ramifications, and communicate with each other, by holes and archways. Sometimes, you are in darkness,—and then, suddenly you stand beneath a natural sky-light a hundred feet above, through which the dazzling sun-light pours down. But an inconsiderate progress into these caverns is dangerous; both because they abound in deep pools, and because the level of caverns being unequal, one may be surprised by the tide, which may enter by some distant ramification. It would be impossible I think, to conceive a more miserable termination of life; or death surrounded by more horrors, than would be the lot of one, surprised in a cavern by the tide. On the open sea, there is always something like hope; a sail,—a raft,—a hencoop; there is at all events companionship, and light,—space around, and the sky above; but alone, in a dark cavern,—retreating to its farthermost extremity, as the water rises higher and higher,—it is too horrible to contemplate; and yet some human beings have no doubt thus died.

I spent a long summer day among these singular scenes; and whether in shapes or hues, I have never seen rocks offer so much that is curious to the eye.

There is scarcely a form that the rocks do not take,—or at least, that fancy may not without any great stretch, invest them with; and as for the hues of the rocks,—grey, and buff, and black, and white, and blue, and red, are all presented within the eye's range. I am almost ashamed to say, that it was neither the search after steatite, or lapis ollaris, nor even the picturesque beauties of the spot, that detained me beyond the hour when my company was expected elsewhere; but an old, and very large grey gull, that sat on the pinnacle of an insulated rock. There he was sitting when I descended in the morning; there he sat like a stoic, the livelong day, never joining the thousand of his kind that wheeled, and sailed, and screamed around him; and though really anxious to see him fly away, and many a time attempting both by cries and missiles, to send him among his kind, I was forced after all, to leave him sitting.

But it is time now, that I should leave the general external aspect of Serk, to speak of its inhabitants,—their dwellings, and possessions, and mode of life, and customs, and peculiarities: for these, after all, are more important and more attractive, than the finest descriptions of natural scenery that were ever offered to the eye of a view hunter, or that ever employed the pen of a tourist.

CHAPTER II.

Inhabitants of Serk—State of Property, and Laws—Farm-houses Occupations — Agriculture, and Fishing—Mode of Life—Amusements—Morality in Serk.

I have said, that the inhabitants of Serk amount to between five and six hundred, a number considerably less than the island might support; but the increase of population is checked, by the manner in which the land is held. There are forty copyhold possessions on the island, and there can never be less or more. No copyhold possessor of a farm, can sell, or dispose of a part of his property: he may sell,—but he must sell all; and one-thirteenth part of the purchase money goes to the lord of Serk. In case of death also, the property devolves entire upon the eldest son; or failing such, to the eldest collateral branch. All properties, in short, must ever continue entire, as originally granted. Buildings too, erected on an estate, must go along with it: there is therefore no facility for an increasing population: the lord of the manor however, possesses some land not yet granted in copyhold; and upon that land, houses have been erected, and population has increased.

The houses of the farmers, are built of stone,—generally granite; and have all the appearance of great antiquity. Their situations are generally well chosen, in some sheltered spot, either in the dells, or behind hillocks. All of the better sort of houses have enclosures before, and a little orchard ground behind; and there is altogether, something very picturesque about these oddly shaped, and very substantial houses, with the moss-grown rocks and stones in their neighbourhood, and the venerable ivy that hangs upon their walls.

The estates of these farmers, scarcely average more than fifteen English acres; and the management of such properties not requiring the labour of a man and his family, all the possessors of land, are also fishermen. But the life of a fisherman has more attractions for a Serkman, than that of an agriculturist: and were it not for the great fertility of the soil, the care and labour which he bestows upon the land, would not secure a return to the farmer. This fertility is however great; some land having been known to yield sixty bushels of wheat per English acre, and the average return of land, being considerably above forty. But, as I have said, the Serkman is more attached to his fishing, than to his tillage; and prefers his nets to his plough. To him, there is an indescribable pleasure in sitting idly in his boat, basking in the sun, and waiting God's luck. A fish called rock fish, is extensively caught, and is chiefly salted for winter provision. The surplus produce of the net, is generally taken to Guernsey market: that part of the produce which is not used in their families, consists chiefly, of

lobsters, and cray fish,—both of which are caught in great abundance round the island.

But the Serkman does not confine his boating, to his own creeks and coves, nor even to excursions as far as Guernsey. He is his own boat builder; and with his little vessel of twenty foot keel, he adventures far from his own shores. With his cargo of potatos, or occasionally of shell fish, he goes as for as Cherbourg; and even seeks a market in the English ports.

This preference of sea to land, imposes upon the women, the necessity of performing much outdoor labour. This again, produces other evils; it occupies time which ought to be employed in household matters; leads to the neglect of children,—and probably, to the injury of health: and there is no doubt, that were the time spent in the fishing boat by those who possess land, bestowed upon that land, there would be a larger and more sure return from the latter, than from the former occupation. Labour, and exposure to the sun, have produced their usual effect on the appearance of the women, who are, with few exceptions, remarkably plain; while, on the other hand, the men may be called a good-looking race.

The people of Serk live better than those of the same rank in either Jersey or Guernsey. All being fishermen, they have a more constant supply, and a greater variety of fish; and I found few—none indeed, of the farmers, who are not accustomed to eat bacon three or four times a week. In Serk, as in the other Channel Islands, all keep cows,—and make butter,—the surplus of which, is exported to Guernsey. The people of Serk have their amusements too: they have

their social meetings, especially at Christmas time, when twenty or thirty assemble together, to eat, drink, and gossip. Drinking to excess is not however a vice of the Serk people, although spirituous liquors are as cheap as they are in the other islands. The present Lord of Serk discourages as much as possible, all excess of this kind; and the power of licensing public houses, being one of his manorial rights, he has limited the number to two.

Although the landowners supply almost all their wants, from their land, and by their nets, there are of course some, independent of both. A few shop-keepers have therefore settled on Serk; and cottages here and there, are also inhabited by artificers, such as shoemakers, general carpenters, &c. The farmers, I have already said, are their own ship-carpenters: other trades which in larger communities are separately followed, are here, the concern of each family; such as tailoring and hatmaking, which are the business of the females of the family: house-masons are so rarely wanted, that they would find no trade in Serk, and are therefore imported from Guernsey when required. As for walls and outbuildings,—such as a byre, or a pig-stye, every Serkman is mason enough for these. There are few trades also, of the more cunning kind, with which there is not to be found in Serk, some old man, in some degree, conversant. The nature of the holdings, forbidding the division of property, and tending also to obstruct the multiplication of houses, the natural effect of this state of things is, that many leave the island. Younger sons must seek their fortune; and accordingly it not unfrequently happens,

that those who have spent half a lifetime as artificers either in the other islands, or in England, return to Serk, and turn their talents, if not to their own profit, to that of their countrymen.

The people of Serk have few temptations to immorality; and are rather a religiously disposed people: this at least is certain, that they are regular attendants of public worship. The incumbency of Serk, is a perpetual curacy, in the nomination of the seigneur —who however, has no power of removing a minister whom he has appointed. There is no fixed stipend; this being a matter of agreement between the minister, and the patron, who pays him. The present incumbent receives 80*l.* per annum, and a free house. The church, erected in 1820, is a very neat and commodious building. There is also a free school in the island, attended by about seventy children. The schoolmaster's salary, is 33*l.*,—the produce of money which was the overplus of a sum granted by the States of Guernsey for the erection of the pier, and which is lodged in the French funds.

L'Eperquerie.

CHAPTER III.

The Agriculture of Serk—Live Stock—Civil Government—Manorial Rights—Island Militia—The Harbour—Scenery—The Isle of Brechnou—Historical Sketch—Singular Tradition—Geological Notices.

I now proceed to speak briefly of the agriculture and produce of this little island. Excepting close to the coast, the soil of Serk is a rich deep loam, lying on a bed of clay: in some parts, the substratum is gravel and rock; but the soil is everywhere unusually fertile —as some proof of which, I may state that in favourable seasons, potato land has yielded three hundred and fifty bushels, of sixty pounds per bushel, per English acre; and fifty-eight bushels of wheat, imperial measure, is no unusual produce.

The agriculture of Serk does not differ greatly from that of Guernsey; but in Serk, there is a less proportion of pasture; the land being more generally under tillage,—the produce being parsnips, wheat, barley, oats, beans, potatos, mangel wurzel, &c. No vraic is found on the coast of Serk,—the cliffs being everywhere precipitous, and the sea deep; but the inhabitants of Serk have a right of cutting vraic on the adjacent island of Herm, on which the weed is very abundant. Vraic is therefore, in Serk, as in the other islands, the general manure. Serk produces considerably more than suffices for its own consumption. It is generally said, that the corn produced in one year, suffices for two years' consumption. In 1832, upwards of 500 quarters of wheat were exported from Serk; and a very large quantity of potatos: in 1822, no fewer than 22,000 bushels were exported. The Serk farms are not generally laboured by spade husbandry; but the farmers, as in the other islands, assist each other,—though they do not in Serk make use of the great plough, which is so universal a favourite in Jersey and Guernsey. Owing to the indivisibility of property in Serk, the enclosures are larger than they are in the other islands; and the embankments are of a similar construction, though not on quite so large a scale.

Generally speaking, live stock in Serk is much the same as in Guernsey; especially horned cattle and hogs, though both are somewhat larger. A fat ox has been known to reach six score; and many hogs weigh four hundred pounds. The few sheep fed on Serk, are certainly superior; and I can answer for the

mutton being excellent. The quarter of a fat sheep, when killed, does not weigh more than seven or eight pounds. The horses are neither large nor good-looking; but they are good workers, hardy, and easily kept. It has been remarked by those who have had opportunities of forming a correct judgment, that disease among cattle is extremely rare in Serk.

There are a good many orchards in Serk, which produce abundantly; and all the fruit and garden produce which is found in the other islands, is congenial to Serk. In the garden belonging to the seigneurie, I saw remarkably fine fruit, — especially peaches, apricots and nectarines: figs also I saw in great perfection.

The quantity of land under tillage, is about 1100 acres; and the quantity of waste land in Serk may amount to about one-seventh of the whole superficies. It is not often that land is to be let in Serk; but when this occurs, good land lets readily at 75*s.* per acre: all rent is paid in kind.

The lord of Serk, is the sole lay impropriator of tithes. The tithe paid to the seigneur is the tenth sheaf of wheat, barley, oats, beans, &c., as well as the tenth of wool and lambs.

The constitution and government of Serk are most singular. It forms a part of the bailiwick of Guernsey; and is under its jurisdiction, in civil, military, and ecclesiastical affairs: but the legislative power, as regards the government of the island, by local enactments, is vested in the seigneur, and his forty tenants; who together form a little parliament, which sits three times in the year. This assembly is presided over by

an officer called the seneschal, who is appointed by the seigneur: and the seigneur possesses a veto on the acts of the assembly.

The executive power is vested in the seneschal, who has the cognizance of civil cases; and from his court, an appeal lies to the royal court of Guernsey. The other public officers are, a provost, whose office it is, to plead the king's causes,—to regulate weights and measures,—and to arrest for debt; a registrar, who has custody of the records of the island,—and a constable, and vingtenier, who constitute the police of the island. The provost and registrar, are named by the seigneur: the police officers, by the forty tenants. Amongst other seignorial rights, the lord of Serk is entitled to one half of all unclaimed wrecks.

Formerly, the seigneur could call upon his forty tenants to bear arms; and each was obliged by his tenure, to provide himself with a musket and accoutrements. But muskets, and regular clothing, are now furnished by government; and all the inhabitants above the age of 16, are obliged to bear arms. The island militia is one hundred strong; and is commanded by the seigneur, as lieutenant-colonel, who, as well as the other officers, holds his commission from the governor in chief of Guernsey; ten pieces of artillery also are allowed by government for the defence of Serk. The militia-men of Serk are expert marksmen; and considering the natural defences of the island, this force is sufficiently effective.

The rates are levied by order of the little parliament —and generally, the island wants, are covered by 4*d.* in the pound. In August, 1833, one pauper only was

on the list. No taxes can be levied in Serk, but for the purposes of the island; and no tax levied by the jurisdictions of the other islands could reach Serk. The inhabitants are also bound to keep the roads in repair, by their own manual labour, and to use their own tools, carts and horses.

I have mentioned that Serk has another entrance than that by which I was admitted to it; and that it possesses a harbour; and that after stepping ashore, one has still to pass through a long archway under the rock, before it is possible to reach the interior of the island. I visited this singular spot the evening after my arrival, with the seigneur for my conductor. The descent to the harbour is by a singularly wild, winding and narrow valley, which leads to the edge of a cliff, with the sea below on the left; while to the right, farther progress is obstructed by an inaccessible rock which rises about 150 feet above the path. It is underneath this rock, that the archway is formed; and having passed through it, you stand in front of the little harbour. Across the mouth of it, leaving only an entrance, a pier, or rather a breakwater, has been constructed, — which, from first to last, has cost about 1600*l.* It is here that the Serkmen build their boats; several were in the course of being built and repaired; and the men were busy with them. I mention this, that I may have an opportunity of remarking upon the cordial feeling that appeared to exist between the lord of Serk and his people. I everywhere perceived evidence of that kind of intercourse which ought to subsist in such a spot, between the lord of so insulated a territory, and those who acknowledge him as their

head: for he who is proprietor of the island,—who is its military commander,—who appoints the civil judge, and the spiritual and intellectual guides — and who has a veto on the acts of the little legislature,—is in fact, a mimic king; and in his own sphere, has the power of being more the father of his people, than the monarch of more extended realms.

I could dilate upon the singularities of many other spots, which I visited in company with the seigneur; and ought not to omit all notice of the "creux terrible," a horrible pit in the rock, into which the sea enters by a cavern below, and from whose darkness and profundity, one instinctively shrinks back. These spots were singular, and singularly horrible; but the knolls and the slopes of the dells, covered with bright lilac heath,—and blooming furze,— and broad-leaved fern, —and tall foxglove,—and the prety sea pink,—and the scented wild thyme, had greater charms for me. Among other plants which I observed growing wild, I noticed stramonium, — horehound, — centaury, —and wormwood. Nor must I omit one production which helped to grace the dinner-table at the manor house— wild spinach. This plant grows in very great abundance in a gorge by which we ascended from the sea; and is equally delicate, and possesses precisely the same flavour as the garden spinach.

Close to the west end of Serk, and separated from it only by a narrow channel, about eighty yards across, is an islet called Brechnou, or Ile des Marchands. This islet is part of the seignory of Serk, and used to be kept, by the seigneur, as a rabbit warren. He has lately however, enclosed it, and settled two families

on it. This islet is about a mile and a half in circumference,—and presents everywhere, precipitous shores. There is a tradition, that a frigate once passed through the straight between Serk and Brechnou; and it is certain, that about fifty years ago, the Valentine, homeward-bound Indiaman, was lost near the same spot.

The history of Serk will not occupy me long. It is said that a certain bishop of Dol, in Brittany, then Armorica, conceived the design of christianizing the islands of the Channel. This was some time during the sixth century. This holy man, previous to entering upon his labours, resolved to prepare himself by prayer and solitary meditation; and for this purpose, retired to Serk, which was doubtless at that time, uninhabited. There he built a small chapel and monastery, as the legend says; and it is certain that in the reign of Edward III., a chapel, or the remains of some building, existed in the island, upon which might then be traced, the name of the bishop.

Subsequently to this, Serk became a nest for pirates, who were long the scourge of these seas; but an expedition against them was fitted out from Rye, and Winchelsea; and the pirates and their vessels were destroyed; and from that period, until the reign of Edward VI., the isle was again uninhabited. In the reign of this prince however, the French seized upon Serk, and raised two forts upon it; and from their almost unassailable position, they made descents upon the other islands, and seriously annoyed the English trade. But in the reign of queen Mary, Serk was surprised by certain Flemings, subjects of Philip,

the husband of Mary. There are two accounts of this event. One says merely, that a small number of Flemings arrived on the coast, at night, climbing into the island, by one of the almost inaccessible paths, and surprised and made prisoners the few French who still kept possession. Sir Walter Raleigh however, in his history, gives another and more curious account; and this, is the tradition current in the island. He says, the island of Serk joining to Guernsey, and of that government, was, in queen Mary's time (this is an error) surprised by the French, and could never have been recovered again by strong hand, having cattle and corn enough upon the place, to feed so many men as will serve to defend it; and being every way so inaccessible, that it might be held against the great Turk. Yet by the industry of a gentleman of the Netherlands, it was in this sort regained. He anchored in the road with one ship; and pretending the death of his merchant, besought the French that they might bury their merchant in hallowed ground, and in the chapel of that isle; offering to the French, a present of such commodities as they had on board. Whereto, with condition that they should not come ashore with any weapon, no, not so much as with a knife,—the French yielded. Then did the Flemings put a coffin in their boat, not filled with dead carcass, but with swords, targets, and harquebuzes. The French received them at their landing, and searching every one of them so narrowly that they could not hide a penknife, gave them leave to draw the coffin up the rocks with great difficulty. Some part of the French took the Flemish boat, and rowed aboard their

ship, to fetch the commodities promised, and what else they pleased, but being entered, they were taken and bound. The Flemings on the land, when they had carried their coffin into the chapel, shut the door on them, and taking the weapons out of the coffin, set upon the French. They ran to the cliff, and cried to their companions aboard the Fleming to come to their assistance: but finding the boat charged with Flemings, yielded themselves and the place. This, if true, proves the Fleming to have been a very ingenious gentleman; and Sir Walter Raleigh pronounces the stratagem a chef d'œuvre.

From this event until the year 1565, Serk is believed to have been uninhabited; but at that period, Elizabeth granted the island, by patent under the great seal of England, to Hillary de Carteret, seigneur of St. Ouen's, in Jersey. By him it was colonized, and is now held under the same patent, though not in the same family.

The capture of Serk has never been attempted by the French in later times. The possession of the island would certainly be highly advantageous to an enemy of Britain; but the enterprise would be one of very doubtful success; and could not be attempted without a large and certain sacrifice of human life.

I do not know that I have any thing more to add to these notices of Serk, unless it be, a recommendation to those who are curious in natural scenery, or to whom, the spectacle of an insulated and peculiar people has attractions, to visit the island. The number of those who do visit Serk from the neighbouring islands, is extremely limited. From Guernsey indeed,

it is not a very unusual summer excursion; and comfortable lodging being to be had at several of the farm houses, families occasionally reside there for a few weeks. Few however of the inhabitants of Jersey have visited Serk: and I never met with one English resident who had. What a retreat would Serk offer to the professional, or the literary man, from the din of the metropolis! What a contrast between the crowd, and bustle, and noise, and mists of Fleet-Street,—and the repose, and free air of Serk, with its deep still dells, and flowery knolls, and quiet bays, and monotonous sounds.

I have said nothing of the climate of Serk, and the health of the inhabitants; and perhaps I cannot give a better proof of the healthfulness of the Island than this, that there is no medical man on it. There are female accoucheurs indeed,—and one or two individuals who profess to set bones: but excepting in these casualties, medical and surgical aid must both be obtained from Guernsey. On an average of ten years, the mortality is not quite one in a hundred; and in the years 1816 and 1820 there was not one death in a population of 500 persons. Query; are ten years added to one's life, an equivalent for a life spent in Serk?

HERM.

This is but an islet, and must not be permitted to occupy much space. Herm lies about midway between Guernsey and Serk, and is of considerable service to the security of the shipping in Guernsey roads, by protecting them from the violence of the north-east winds. I have read somewhere, that Herm is very fruitful in corn and potatos, and that its produce is greatly larger than its consumption. This I can well believe; for it would be indeed singular if an island nearly four miles in circumference, and containing some hundred acres of cultivated land, did no more than support the score of people who reside on it.

Herm is however but indifferently cultivated, and could be made greatly more profitable than it is. There is a good deal of land susceptible of cultivation which is at present covered with furze; and the crops of barley which I saw, were scanty and evidently ill managed. Some attempts however, were making, to redeem land from the empire of furze, and wild mint, which everywhere grows in the greatest abundance; and I observed some stone enclosures newly raised.

There was formerly, a considerable number of sheep on the island; and since on many parts, the sheep walks are unexceptionable, it is surprising that the proprietor should overlook so simple a mode of enriching himself. But every one, they say, has his hobby; and the working of stone quarries is the hobby of the present owner of Herm. When I visited Herm, several stone quarries were in process of being worked; and it is the opinion of the best informed, that under better management, these quarries might be made a source of profit; for to any one working them economically, there are many great advantages. There are of course no harbour dues; and the quarries lie so close to the beach, that there is no expense of carriage: the stone is of a good quality, and abundant; and with these advantages, and with ordinary management, it ought certainly to yield a remunerating price. It was supposed some time ago, that a vein of copper was discovered: a mine was sunk, and worked several hundred yards; but nothing was obtained to repay the labour,—or the speculator.

A little harbour has been constructed in the neighbourhood of the quarries, and large vessels are sometimes seen loading here.

The proprietor of Herm lives on the island. He has his house and his establishment there; and contrives to live without society. The only other houses excepting his, are those of a few agricultural labourers, and some miserable cottages for the quarriers. There is no lack of amusement however, of a certain kind in Herm. It abounds in wild rabbits; and besides the birds that frequent the other islands, a shot at a cor-

morant may sometimes be had. The rocks also, abound in shell fish; and shrimping parties from Guernsey, are accordingly of constant occurrence. This, by the by, is a favourite amusement in all the islands, and is occasionally indulged in by persons of all ranks; and so various are tastes, in the matter of recreation, that I have seen individuals who found as much pleasure in wading for half a day, knee deep among rocks, to make capture of some handfuls of shrimps, as has ever been afforded to others in the pursuit of the deer or the fox.

But Herm possesses another attraction, which, during the summer, is the frequent source of pic-nic parties from Guernsey,—its shell beach. This beach, which extends from half a mile to three quarters of a mile, is one mass of shells; intermixed neither with pebbles nor sand. Dig with your hands as you may, there is still nothing but shells. Few I believe, that the conchologist would esteem valuable, are now to be found; and indeed, few perfect shells of any size, now remain. The shell beach is not of course composed of the larger perfect shells, but of minute perfect shells, and fragments of larger shells. The minute shells are very pretty, and may be gathered in millions; and although I am no conchologist, and might probably commit so great a heresy, as to estimate the value of shells by their beauty, I spent a long summer's day much to my mind in Herm, chiefly wandering on the shell beach,—lying on it,—digging my hands an arm's length down; and sifting, and examining, and pocketing. Nor must I omit the agreeable conversation of the intelligent individual who accompanied me,

—or the contents of the basket which provided for our wants.

But I must not dismiss Herm and its shells, with so very slight a notice. In a little book,—a guide to Guernsey,—lately published, I find an enumeration of the shells found in Herm; and having ascertained that the enumeration has been furnished by a competent conchologist, I shall extract it. "The divisions of the order testacea, in these islands, extend to upwards of forty genera, embracing upwards of two hundred varieties. In multivalves, we have fine specimens of the chiton, the lepas, the pholas. In bivalves, the islands are rich in the mya, or trough shell; the solen, razor sheath, or knife handle; the tellena, or telen; the carduum, cockle, or heart shell; the mactra, or kneading trough; the donax, or wedge shell; the venus; the spondylus, thorny oyster, or artichoke; the chama; clamp, or gaper; the arca; the anomia, or antique lamp; the mytilus, the pinna, fin shell, or sea wing, &c.

"The univalve are still more abundant. We have great varieties of the conus: the cyprae, or coury; of the bulla; the voluta; buccinum; strombus; winged, or claw shell; the trochus; the turbo, or wreath; the nerita; the haliotis; the dentalium; the murex, &c.

We have little less than forty species of sponges, among which may be found, the spongea occulata; the spongea tormentosa; the spongea coronata; the spongea botrycides; the spongea lacustris, &c."

The island of Herm is also rich in corals and coral-lines; and there are also rare specimens of diminutive lobsters, cray fish, spider crab, &c.

I am myself no conchologist; but learning from competent judges, that the little island of Herm is richer in shells, than all the shores of all the rest of the British islands, and that the shells found there, may be considered miniatures of the shells found in most other parts of the world, I thought it my duty to make the above enumeration, for the sake of the conchologist who may read these pages; and who may find so much gratification in a visit to Herm.

I am told however, that without visiting Herm, the amateur collector may gratify his taste in Guernsey, by using his purse, in place of his spade; for both in the market, and in other parts of St. Peter's Port, shells are exposed for sale, and may be purchased for a trifle.

The scenery of Herm is no way remarkable. The island is too small to admit of valleys; there is scarcely any wood; and the cliffs, are not in general to be compared with those of the adjacent islands.

Unless to those who can pleasantly dream away an hour on a shell beach, the attractions of Herm will scarcely repay a visit.

Jethou, with part of Herm and Serk.

JETHOU.

JETHOU is separated from Herm by a narrow, but deep channel. This little islet is about a mile and a quarter in circumference; and although diminutive even in comparison with Herm, it boasts a better house, and a greater number of trees. The proprietor of Jethou, who is a wealthy man, but whose wealth I need scarcely say, does not arise from his possession of Jethou, resides constantly on the island, — never leaving it unless to paddle in his boat across the straight that separates him from his neighbour, the

proprietor of Herm. With the exception of an orchard, there is little of Jethou under cultivation: the rest is in fact, a rabbit warren. This orchard however, is extremely productive, and is said to supply the proprietor and his friends with excellent cider.

Jethou is a picturesque object seen from almost any point. It is very elevated for its size, and excepting at one spot, its sides are everywhere precipitous. Two very small rocky islets, both accessible from Jethou at low water, standing about fifty yards distant from it,—but at opposite sides of the island, also add considerably to the picturesqueness of the scene.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

COMPARATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE FERTILITY OF SOIL, IN JERSEY AND IN ENGLAND.

The standard cabot of the island for wheat, and for that grain alone, measures fourteen inches and a quarter wide, and eight inches and a quarter deep, English measure; consequently it contains 1315,7536 cubic inches.

A legal Winchester bushel measures eighteen inches and a half wide, and eight inches deep; it therefore contains 2150,4252 cubic inches.

The average produce of wheat per acre, in Essex and in Hampshire, has been estimated at 24 bushels, each weighing from 60 to 64 pounds avoirdupois. The Rev. Mr. Warner, in his history of the Isle of Wight, makes the average in that island only 21 bushels. 24 bushels, at 62 pounds each, make 1488 pounds.

In Jersey, the average on different articles is as follows:—

Wheat	30 cabots, each weighing	30	Pounds Jersey weight per vergée.
Barley	26	36	
Oats	30	27	
Potatos	300	40	

The utmost produce of wheat may be taken at 40 cabots; though in 1813 the utmost produce, on the best land, was 50 cabots of 33 pounds each.

There is a difference between the pound avoirdupois and that of Jersey, 104 of the latter being considered as fully equal to 112 of the former; therefore 13 Jersey pounds are equivalent to 14 pounds avoirdupois.

Calculating on the above estimates, a Winchester bushel of Jersey wheat will weigh full 49 Jersey pounds, or nearly 52 pounds 13 ounces avoirdupois.

As two vergées and a quarter are equal to one statute acre, the average produce of Jersey wheat, at 30 pounds per cabot, will be 2025 Jersey pounds, or nearly 2181 pounds avoirdupois, per acre.

The results from the foregoing estimates are interesting: they prove that Jersey wheat is lighter than English wheat, in the proportion of 52 pounds 13 ounces to 62 pounds; but that the produce of wheat from the Jersey soil, exceeds that of England in the proportion of 2181 to 1488. Great however as this excess is, the same disproportion in the quantity of flour will, it is presumed, not exist; because the Jersey grain being lighter, has probably a greater proportion of husk, or bran; still the difference in the quantity of flour must be very considerable.

The cabot in which barley and every other kind of grain (wheat excepted), pease, beans, potatos, &c. are measured, is more capacious than that used for wheat, the proportion requiring four of the latter to fill three of the former. The preceding estimates of barley, oats, and potatos, must therefore be regulated accordingly.

In addition to the excess in Jersey wheat, it must be considered, that both in England and the Isle of Wight, farming is carried on with great attention; whereas in Jersey, several material advantages are either wanting or neglected.

The information from England respecting potatos varies so much, that it is difficult to fix a proper average. One account states the average produce of an acre to be 400 bushels, at 74 pounds per bushel, or 29,600 pounds. A statement respecting the Isle of Wight is, from 60 to 80 sacks; taking this at the medium of 70, the produce at 74 pounds per bushel, will amount to only 15,540 pounds. This estimate is considered as too low, the other as considerably too high: perhaps 20,000 pounds would be a fairer average.

The Jersey produce of potatos is after the rate of 27,000 Jersey pounds, or nearly 29,077 English pounds per acre; so that in this article also, the difference is in favour of Jersey.

The general crop of hay is averaged at about one ton per vergée, which must also be deemed a very considerable produce. The aftermath is sometimes mown, but more usually grazed.

A few calculations deducible from the foregoing

estimate, and that may be useful in Jersey, are now subjoined.

It requires about 13 one-fourteenth cabots of wheat to make an English quarter.

An English quarter of English wheat, contains	496	Pounds Avoirdupois.
One of Jersey wheat, contains . .	452½	
Deficiency	43½	

The produce of Jersey wheat from an acre, is about 41 three-fourteenth English bushels.

ABSTRACT OF LAWS IN JERSEY.

CRIMINAL LAWS.

The crimes punishable with death, which is inflicted by hanging, are murder, rape, arson, robbery on the highway, and burglary.

When sentence of death is awarded by the court, it is always carried into immediate execution, unless the condemned is recommended to the mercy of the king; in which case the punishment is deferred until the royal pleasure is received.

Whenever capital punishment is inflicted on a prisoner, or he is sentenced to the pillory or banishment for five or more years, his estate, real and personal, is forfeited to the crown.

Treason is reserved for the cognizance of the king in council; the court not being competent to pronounce on the crime, or even to examine witnesses on the charge.

Forgery is punished by exposition in the pillory.

Manslaughter by fine, imprisonment or banishment, according to circumstances.

Cutting and maiming, termed maihem in the old Norman code, subjects the offender to corporal punishment in addition, in aggravated cases.

Larceny is punished by imprisonment, public whipping or banishment, at the discretion of the court.

In many of these cases it was formerly a practice to cut off the lower part of the offender's ear; but this custom, so repugnant to the feelings of the age, has been of late disused, though it is not abolished.

Felo de se is followed by the confiscation of property; and the body is buried without the ceremonies of the church.

Libel and slander are not prosecuted by indictment: but the party aggrieved may either proceed with the king's procureur, or attorney-general, in which case the defendant, if found guilty, may be mulcted in a fine to the king and damages to the prosecutor, or an action may be brought on the case for civil damages alone; in either mode of proceeding the defendant may plead a justification in bar of the action.

Assaults may be prosecuted criminally when they are of a serious nature, or committed on the king's high-way; the culprit is then fined and imprisoned; or the complainant may be joined with the attorney-general in the prosecution; in which case a fine to the king is imposed without imprisonment, and civil damages are given for the benefit of the injured party.

CIVIL LAWS.

Civil causes are also decided by laws which owe their origin to the Norman feudal system.

Tenures are mostly fee simple. The law of inheritance with respect to the descent of estates, does not vary in any great degree from that which in the time of Lyttleton was observed in England. In the division of property, the eldest son, or daughter in failure of male issue, is entitled to a certain portion of the estate, together with the principal house, to discharge the seigneurial services and ground rent, payable in corn, imposed by the original lords of the soil on its donation to a vassal, and to indemnify him for those military supplies which every estate is bound to furnish, according to its extent, if the defence of the island should require them. He is also to defray all other ground rents, which, although now payable in money, may have been due upon the estate for forty years; but is privileged to claim the avenues leading to the principal house, to a certain number of the vergées of land, and to one on every ten comprehended in the estate, as his right from primogeniture.

These claims having been satisfied, two-thirds of what remains are divided amongst all the sons, and one-third amongst the daughters in equal proportions; each being charged with their respective protions of any other mortgages that may be due upon the property.

No real property is devisable by will.

Conveyances of real property are, in Jersey, termed contracts. They are prepared on parchment, without stamp, by the attorneys of the parties, and enrolled in the royal court, which is called "passing a contract." On some court days, fifty or sixty of these, with the parties concerned, are presented at the royal court. The expenses attending these contracts are trifling, and form a great contrast to those in England.

A widow claims as her dower, one-third of the estate owned by her husband.

A widower enjoys at his wife's death, if there have been children, her real estate until he marries again; but it then reverts to her next of kin, as it does if there has been no issue.

A wife may reclaim at her husband's death her estate if sold or encumbered by him without her sanction being expressed by a participation in the deed: should she die first, her heirs have the same privilege.

In bastardy a material distinction exists between the laws of England and Jersey. Whilst in England they are for ever under legal disability, in Jersey, the humane regulation (derived from a Norman custom) is, that bastards become legitimate offspring in law, if the parents afterwards intermarry and acknowledge them; and provided that the parties were unmarried at the birth of such child or children. So that the innocent children do not suffer for paternal guilt; but it appears an undecided question, whether a son so previously produced would inherit, in preference to one born subsequently to the marriage.

It is supposed that there is no part of his majesty's dominions, where bigamy is so prevalent as in Jersey

and in Guernsey; and it can only be accounted for from the fact, that the civil law as practised in the islands, does not recognise it as an offence; and even if it did, it would be only in case both marriages took place in their own jurisdiction. Bigamists have sufficient precaution to marry the second wife or husband, in a different jurisdiction to the first. For instance, a person may contract a first marriage in England, or elsewhere, a second in Guernsey, a third in Jersey, and a fourth in France, and vice versa, and in consequence of each country having separate laws and independent jurisdiction, put the injured parties at defiance to obtain redress in either of the two islands.

A father cannot give, except during his life, a greater share of his landed property to any one child than the law specifies. His donation may be annulled by an action commenced within a year and a day after his decease.

All sales of land belonging to minors may be revoked by them coming of age.

The holders of estates owe homage to the lords of the manors, and when they are required, are obliged to deliver into the baronial court an account of the lands they possess, under the penalty of a seizure of their property, to be held until the contempt is cleared. The lords in collateral successions, enjoy the estate of the deceased for one year.

The undisturbed possession of an estate for forty years, forms a good and sufficient title.

If an estate is overcharged with mortgages, the cessio bonorum, or relinquishment of property, is

allowed to the mortgager. The mortgagees institute proceedings to establish their claims, which last for a year, during which time the lord of the manor holds the estate of the insolvent. It is then demanded of the last mortgagee whether he will take the estate and make good all the preceding claims upon it; if he refuses, his own claim upon the estate is altogether cancelled, and a similar offer is made to the next in succession; and the estate continues to be rotatively so offered, until, the overcharge having been thus cleared off, a mortgagee is found willing to take possession of the estate, and guarantee the claims of the rest. But however hard this may appear upon the last creditors, it must be remembered that, all mortgages being registered, the charges due upon every estate are learnt with the greatest facility.

The tenure of land purchased with cash only, cannot be considered stable until the expiration of a year and a day; as in the intermediate time the nearest relations of the seller, or the lord of the manor, are privileged by the law of retraite, or pre-emption, to take the estate from the buyer on repaying him the purchase-money. But the lapse of time above specified debars them from the right. If, however, the estate is bought with rents, the sale is not to be questioned, as the law then views it as an exchange of real property, rather than as a purchase.

A wife is entitled at the death of her husband to half of his personal property if he leaves no children: but only to one-third if there should be issue. One-third is then the portion of the children, and one-third is disposable at the pleasure of the testator. A widower

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without children may distribute all his money in any way.

The personal property of intestates is divided equally when there are only sons, or only daughters; but when there are both, the sons are entitled to two-thirds, and the daughters share the remainder.

In all collateral successions the real and the unbequeathed personal property lapses to the nearest relations in capitem, and not per stirpem; and to the males in exclusion of the females, in the same degree of relationship.

Ten years is the term of limitation on actions of debt, and on bonds and other simple contracts.

Persons are liable to arrest in Jersey for any sum, even a few shillings, for book debt, bill, bond or rent: the pursuer or sheriff can take body or goods, as he thinks proper, but cannot take both. Money found in the house or lodged in a bank can be arrested, but not money carried about the person. Arrests for security on notes of hand not due, and rent accruing, are likewise made.

Persons are liable to arrest for any book debt, bill, bond, rent or lease, contracted in England or elsewhere, either by the creditor following the debtor, and suing him in person, or by sending a power of attorney to some friend or professional man. Evidence of the debt by personal attendance of witnesses, or acknowledgment in writing, properly authenticated, is necessary. Debts, contracted in Jersey, can be recovered in Guernsey by power of attorney, and vice versa; but in England, only by following the debtor, &c. Persons are arrested in Jersey for debt,

without any proof or affidavit, and in default of bail, (either of one person of known landed property, or a deposit of the money,) committed to prison. The debtor is brought up the next court day, when the case is heard, and the arrest confirmed or quashed. If confirmed, the debtor is remanded to prison until the debt is paid, together with the costs.

Persons giving bail upon any arrest, must take care to present their bail in court, because although the bailed may appear, he is still liable to the same consequence as if he was absent unless the bail is with him.

Bankrupts who have not surrendered to their commission in England, may be apprehended in Jersey by the commissioner's warrant, accompanied by the secretary of state's mandate indorsed by the bailiff.

Persons accepting promissory bills in this island, cannot be sued for them in England, if drawn for "Jersey currency." In a recent case in the court of King's Bench, where a person was sued for a bill accepted in this island for Jersey currency, the judge quashed the action, as there was no such coin in England.

Bona fide, *viva voce* examination, is resorted to only in cases of comparatively minor importance; and whenever the life of a fellow creature is at stake—whenever a sum in dispute is at all considerable—the examination of witnesses takes place, in civil cases, on written interrogatories. When examination takes place on written interrogatories, neither the parties nor the counsel are present. The interrogatories are prepared by the counsel of the party by whom the

witness is brought forward, and are communicated to the counsel on the other side, previous to the examination.

Persons discharged in England under the act of debtors, cannot in person or property be made liable in Jersey for debts contracted in the island, provided such debts were inserted in their schedules.

All encroachments on property, and all civil injuries which require a prompt remedy, may be resisted by the Clameur de Haro; after which an action is brought. This singular exclamation, the form of which is Haro, Haro, Haro, à l'aide mon Prince, was only made use of in the duchy of Normandy, as it existed on its first constitution, on occasions of great peril or consequence, and was an appeal made to Rollo for justice and protection, as the founder of the laws, and preserver of the rights of the people. The word Haro is compounded of Ha! an earnest ejaculation, and of a contraction of the name of the duke. But much as it was formerly respected in Normandy, it is to this day no less absolute here: it is an instantaneous check which cannot be disputed, and one of the parties must be fined.

There are game laws in Jersey. Every person has the right to sport with gun and dogs without license, but is liable to actions for trespasses wilfully committed on the property of those whose lands are passed.

THE END.

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